Domestic Girlfriend
2
DOMESTIC GIRL
KEI SASUGA

Domestic Girlfriend

2

DOME
GIRL

KEI SASUGA

DOME GIRL

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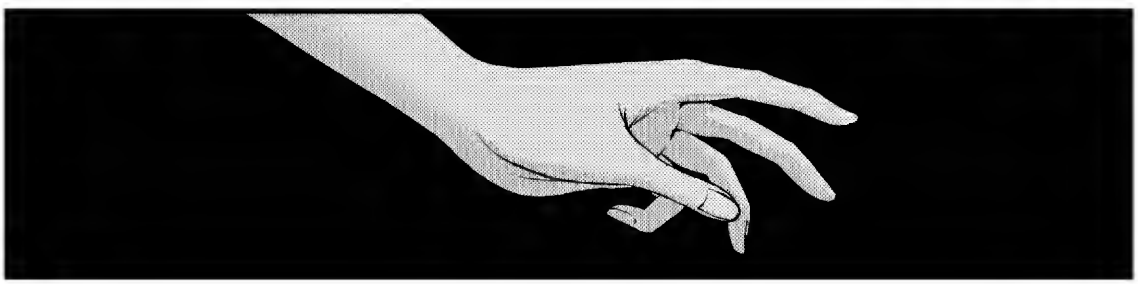
CHAPTER 6: AN ADULT'S WORLD



SEE?
TWITCH
SWIF
...!
I KNEW IT.
YOU'RE SCARED.
NO MATTER HOW BOLD YOU ACT...
...OR HOW COOL YOU TRY TO LOOK...

...YOUR EYES...
...ARE STILL THOSE OF A CHILD'S.

CLACK
カチャ…
TMP
TMP
タタ
〃
SHUT
タ
ズル
SLIDE

カツ
CLACK
チャ…

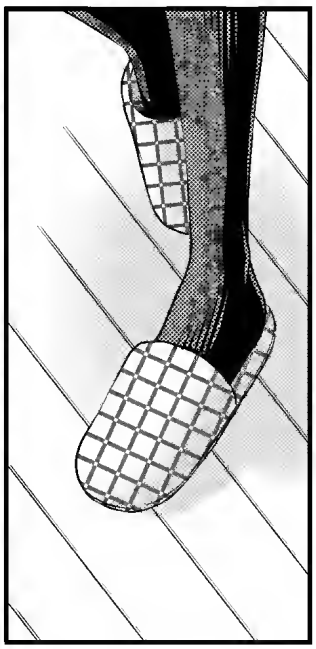
カツ
THUD
ガチャ!!

WHAT THE HELL …
…AM I DOING?

TMP
TMP
TMP
W-
WE HAVE A PROB-LEM!
I...
I JUST ...
WHAT'S WRONG? BREAKFAST IS READY.
...WENT TO GO WAKE NATSUO UP AND...
...I FOUND THIS NOTE!
I'm sorry, I won't be coming home for a while. I'll be at a friend's place, so please don't worry about me.
Natsuo
OH, MY ...
DID HE RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
HIS SHOES WERE GONE WHEN I CHECKED THE FRONT DOOR.
BUT WHY ...?
NATSUO-KUN... MAYBE HE WAS AGAINST OUR MARRIAGE, AFTER ALL.

I'M A FAILURE AS A FATHER!
I'VE MADE HIM ENDURE SO MUCH UNTIL NOW...!
DO YOU THINK HE FORCED HIMSELF TO GOING ALONG WITH IT?!
わぁあ
WAHHHH
あっ

...
HINA-NEE.



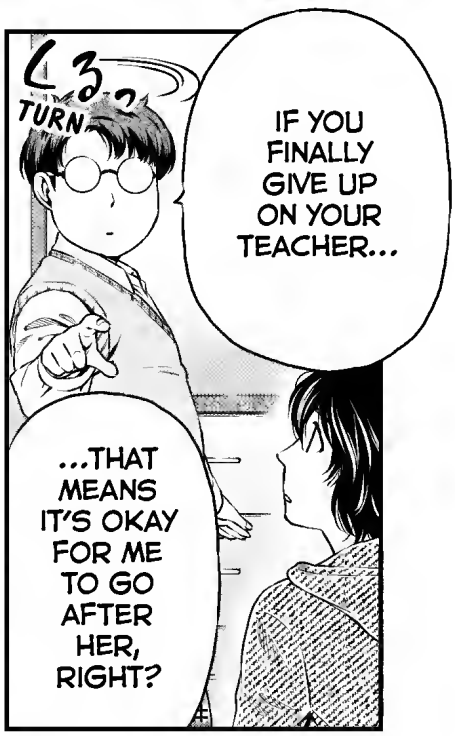
FUMI-KUN.
YOU CAN CLOCK OUT NOW IF YOU WANT.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GET HOME EARLY, RIGHT?
REALLY? SORRY...
SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR / L'AMANT
I'M BAAACK.
SLIDE
WEL-COME HOME.
WOW.
YOU'RE IN THE EXACT SAME POSITION YOU WERE IN WHEN I LEFT.

I'M THINKING OF TAKING SOME TIME OFF...
I SEE.
I'M GUESSING YOU DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL, THEN.
DID ANYONE TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU?
...
Hey, you okay? You alive? if you're sick, I'll bring you some of my family's specially-made health juice! It taste like shit, though!
Now you're skipping school on a whim, huh, Natsuo? You're becoming more like me. lol
JUST MY DAD...AND YUYA AND KAZU FROM SCHOOL TEXTED ME.
...
SO, WANNA TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
...
WELL ...
...IT'S PROBABLY MY FAULT FOR TELLING YOU THAT STUFF YESTERDAY.
I FEEL BAD ABOUT THAT.
NO ...!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AT ALL!
IT'S MINE!

ALL BE-CAUSE ...
...I DID SOME-THING I SHOULDN'T HAVE.

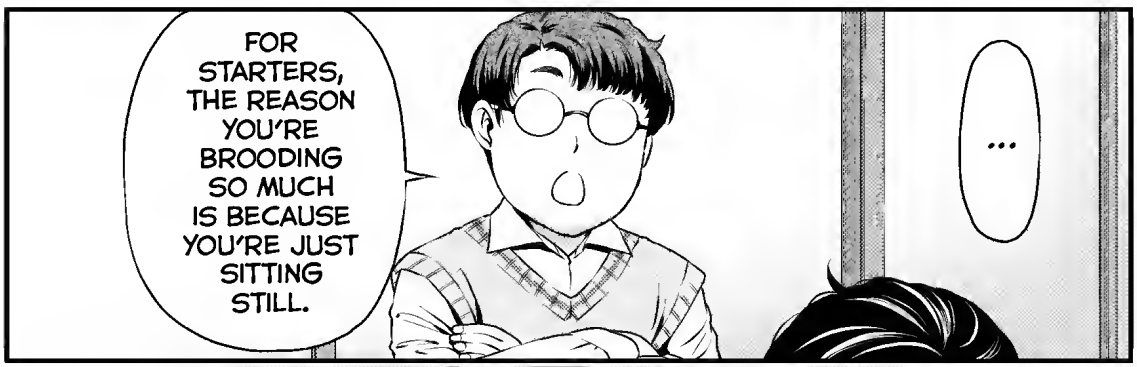
WELL ...
...EITHER WAY, IT WORKS OUT GREAT FOR ME IN THE END, I GUESS.

SHE'S PROBABLY WORRIED OVER HOW YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME.
I CAN USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET CLOSE TO HER WHILE GIVING UPDATES ON YOU,
THEN I'LL GIVE HER ADVICE REGARDING HER FRUITLESS LOVE.
←?

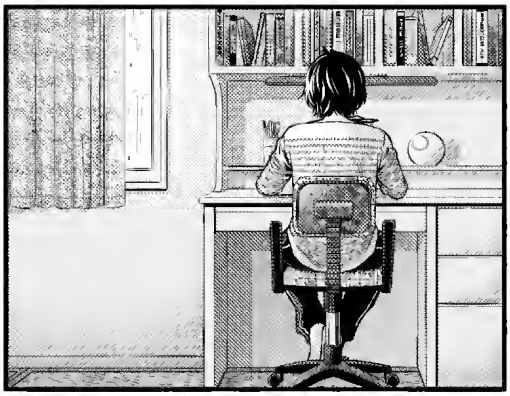

TURN
IF YOU FINALLY GIVE UP ON YOUR TEACHER...
...THAT MEANS IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO GO AFTER HER, RIGHT?

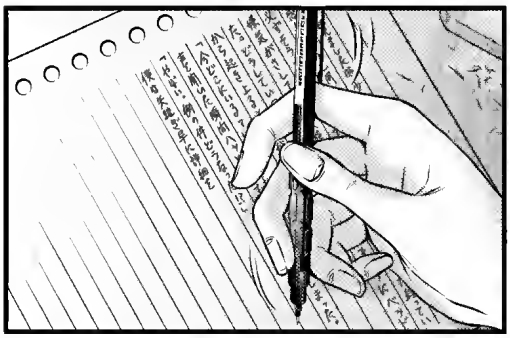
POUNCE
YOU ASS-HOLE!
HOW CAN YOU TAUNT ME WHEN I'M SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED OVER HERE?!
WIGGLE
SHE'LL GRADUALLY COME TO LEAN ON ME, SAYING, "'YOU'RE SO KIND, FUMIYA-KUN..."
I DON'T CARE IF SHE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR!
THIS IS IT!
SHAKE
WIGGLE
SHAKE
SHAKE
I'LL BE THE WINNER IN THE END!
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU BOYS DOING?!
ARE YOU FIGHTING ?!
THUD
SLAM
THUNK
BAM
NAH. NATSUO SAID HIS BODY'S STIFF FROM SITTING IN MY ROOM ALL DAY.
SO I WAS JUST HELPING HIM STRETCH.
TAP
TAP
I... SEE...
GRAPEVINE STRETCH

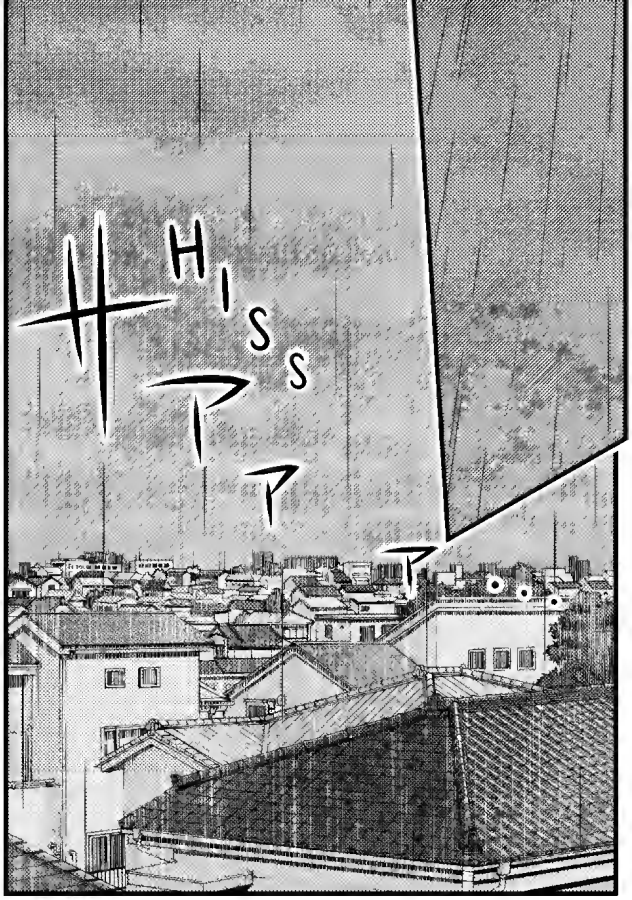
LOOK AT THAT.
IF YOU STILL HAVE THE ENERGY TO FIGHT ...
...THEN YOU SHOULD BE JUST FINE.


...
FOR STARTERS, THE REASON YOU'RE BROODING SO MUCH IS BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST SITTING STILL.

WHAT'S YOUR GOAL AGAIN?
TO WRITE A NOVEL.
EXACT-LY.
THEN DON'T WASTE THIS VALUABLE TIME.
IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE YOUR CURRENT STORY, JUST WRITE.
...
YEAH.



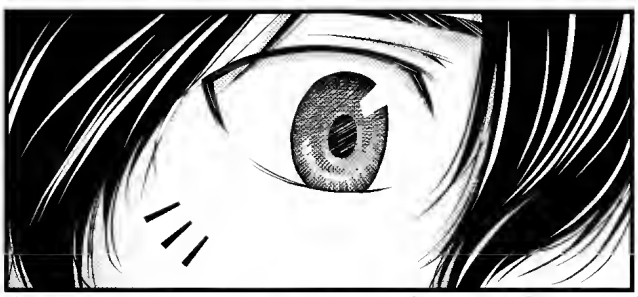



HISS

A CHILD HAS NO PLACE SETTING FOOT...
...IN AN ADULT'S WORLD.
YOUR EYES ...
...ARE STILL THOSE OF A CHILD'S.

HISS

SKSH
SKSH
SKSH



GLANCE
きょろ
GLANCE
きょろ
...!
WHAT IS SHE LOOKING FOR...?

IS THAT YOUR FRIEND'S HOUSE?
HUH?
OH, YEAH ...
SLIDE
...
SPLASH
SPLASH
I FINALLY FOUND YOU...
WERE YOU ...
... LOOKING FOR ME?
... YEAH.

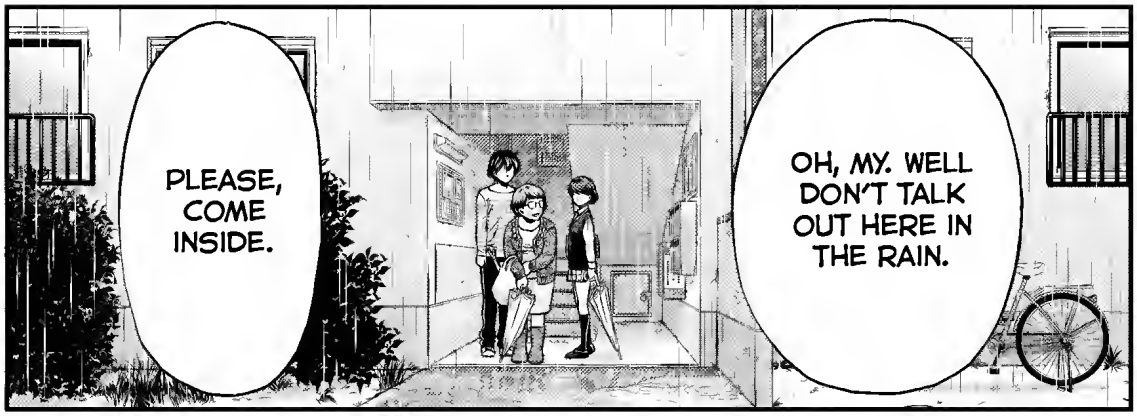
I WAS HOPING MAYBE...
...I COULD STAY THERE, TOO.

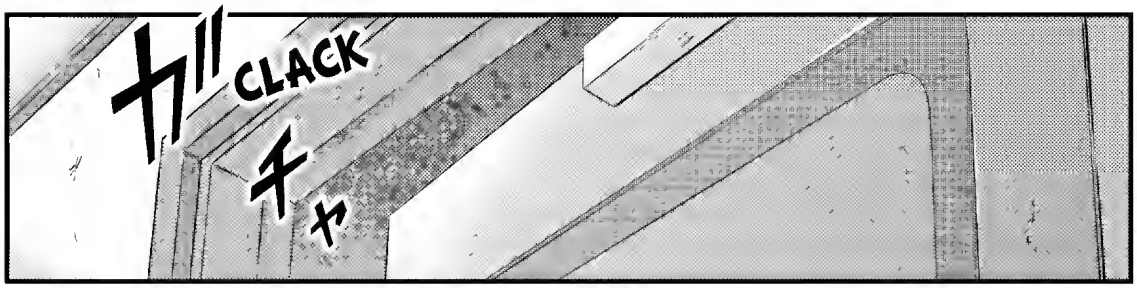
CHAPTER 7: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

IS IT OKAY...
...IF I STAY THERE, TOO?
...
WHAT?
NOT, "LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER"?
SO I CAN'T?
FINE. I'LL LOOK FOR AN INTERNET CAFÉ, THEN.
TURN
HEY ...!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!

JUDGING BY THE TIME, I'M GUESSING YOU DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL.
THEN YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME SINCE MORNING?
WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING?
WHY WOULD I BE HIDING UNDER THE CAR?
I'M NOT A MISSING PET.
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO STAY?
IT'S NOT REALLY MY DE-CISION TO MAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE...
OH?
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU GOT RUN OVER AND TURNED INTO COLD CUTS...
STOP IT.

WHAT'S WRONG, NATSUO-CHAN?
IS THIS A FRIEND OF YOURS?
OBA-SAN...
NO, NOT REALLY FRIENDS.
OUR PARENTS GOT REMARRIED RECENTLY. SHE'S MY/I'M HIS...
YOUNG-ER
OLDER
STEP-SIS-TER.
...WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?
SEP-TEMBER FIFTH.
MINE'S JULY THIR-TEENTH
CLENCH
YOUNG-ER IT IS!


PLEASE, COME INSIDE.
OH, MY. WELL DON'T TALK OUT HERE IN THE RAIN.

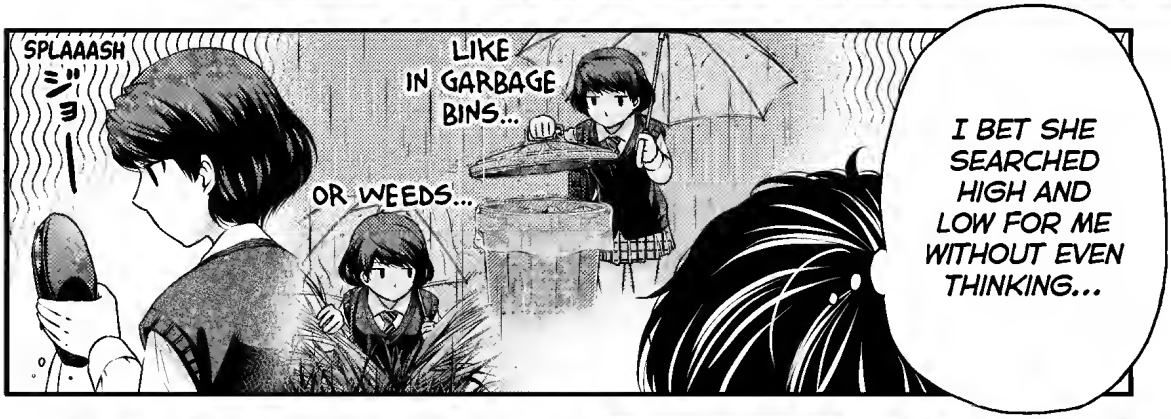

CLACK
カリ
チャ

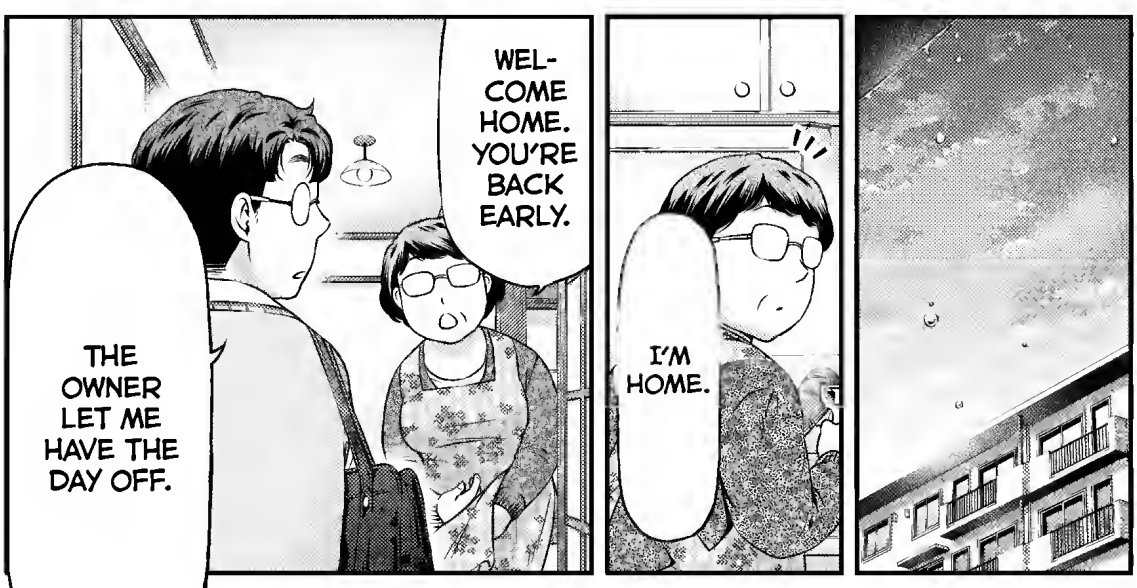
OH ...
I HAVE TO TAKE MY SOCKS OFF.
I'LL MAKE YOU SOME TEA.
TMP
パ
タ

HUH?

CLACK
カリ
チャ...
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.
SORRY ABOUT THIS...
OH, IT'S FINE.

...
SHE WENT THROUGH THAT MUCH TROUBLE?
SOAKED
しょ...


SPLAAASH
ジョー
LIKE IN GARBAGE BINS...
OR WEEDS...
I BET SHE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR ME WITHOUT EVEN THINKING...


WEL-COME HOME. YOU'RE BACK EARLY.
THE OWNER LET ME HAVE THE DAY OFF.
I'M HOME.

...
WHY ARE THERE MORE OF YOU?
WHAT THE HELL, NATSUO?!
HOW CAN YOU BRING A GIRL OVER WHEN YOU'RE FREE-LOAD-ING?!
WHOA, FUMIYA! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
I'M HOME!
WHAT?! WHO IS THAT GIRL?!
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S ONII-CHAN'S GIRL-FRIEND!
THAT'S RIGHT.
DON'T LIE TO YOUR SISTER WITH A STRAIGHT FACE...

WHAAAT?!
I NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN ONII-CHAN ACTUALLY GETS A GIRLFRIEND!
IT'S MY TIME TO BE POPULAR, AT LAST.
STARE
じぃと…
DON'T LOOK AT HIM LIKE THAT. HE IS HELPING US OUT, Y'KNOW.
TAKE A DIG AT HIM IF ANYTHING.
I SEE.
DID YOU TELL RUI-CHAN WHY YOU RAN AWAY, NATSUO?
NOT AT ALL.
SO YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH YOUR BIG SISTER...
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TRYING TO COPY YOU BY RUNNING AWAY.
WHEN DID YOU TAKE A BATH?
YOU'RE TOTALLY MAKING YOURSELF AT HOME.
What's with those excessively cute pajamas?

THIS IS JUST ...
...MY WAY OF BOYCOTTING.
BOYCOTTING?
SHE KNEW THE WHOLE TIME, APPARENTLY.
ABOUT SENSEI'S AFFAIR...
I FOUND OUT AFTER I OVER HEARD HER TALKING ON THE PHONE.
I NOTICED SHE STARTED ACTING KIND OF STRANGE A BIT BEFORE THAT.
AT ANY RATE, HINA-NEE USED TO BE CHEERFUL, FAMILY MINDED, AIRHEADED, AND HAD A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE.
HOLD UP.
SHOULD YOU BE CALLING ANYONE ELSE AN AIRHEAD?
I REALLY LOVED THE OLD HINA-NEE...
...SO I TRIED TO CONFRONT HER ONCE.
HINA-NEE.

ISN'T YOUR BOYFRIEND MARRIED?
THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
...
NO, BUT ...
RUI ...
YOU SHOULD BREAK UP WITH HIM...
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HELD BY THE ONE YOU LOVE?
THEN ...
...YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND.
SO, SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS, I THOUGHT I'D RUN AWAY UNTIL THEY BREAK UP.
I COULDN'T SAY ANY-THING TO HER AFTER THAT.

HUH?
ERR.
YOU TOLD HIM?
THAT'S,
UHH...
PSST
SHH!
IN OTHER WORDS, THAT ALSO LED TO HER HAVING SEX WITH YOU, HUH?
IT IS?!
THEN I GUESS IT'S OKAY...
NO...
DO YOU GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS US?
...
NATSUO,
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
...YOU GUYS CAN'T JUST HIDE OUT HERE FOREVER.
HMM. BUT...

ANSWER ME HONESTLY.
OTHERWISE WE WON'T FIND AN ANSWER.
I WANT ...
...TO MAKE SENSEI BREAK UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND!
RUI-CHAN WANTS HER OLD SISTER BACK...
...AND NATSUO WANTS HER TO BREAK OFF THE AFFAIR.
IN THAT CASE, WE HAVE OUR GOAL DECIDED.

TIME FOR A STRATEGY MEETING!
HUH? THE LIGHTS ARE OFF.
DID EVERYONE ALREADY GO TO BED?
カ
CLACK
チャ・・・

W-
WE'RE BACK...
WHY ARE YOU SITTING IN THE DARK?
CLICK
GASP
!

OH, THANK GOODNESS!
SORRY I WAS GONE THE PAST TWO DAYS...
HUH? WHY'S THERE A DIVORCE FORM HERE?

EH? WEREN'T YOU AGAINST OUR MARRIAGE...?
HUH?!
NO! I JUST-

NATSUO!
RUI...!

DAD...
SLAP
...
...SORRY.
IF SOMETHING IS BOTHERING YOU...
...THEN I WANT YOU TO TALK TO ME!
PLEASE, SON!
わーん!
WAHHH
I CAN'T REALLY TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT, THOUGH.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

SEN-
SEI
...

...!
SOR-
RY
...
I'M SO
SORRY
...!

WHY
ARE
YOU
APOLO-
GIZING,
HINA?
IT'S OUR
FAULT FOR
NOT BEING
MORE CON-
SIDERATE.

TEAR
UP

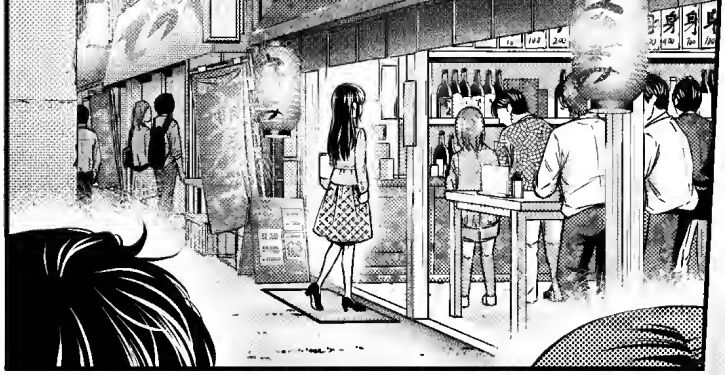
AT ANY RATE...
...THANK GOD NATSUO AND RUI-CHAN CAME HOME.

...
GOOD MORN-ING...
SWIF
MORN-ING...
CLATTER
TO-NIGHT'S THE NIGHT.
WE'LL PRO-CEED AS PLANNED.

CHAPTER 8: COMMENCE OPERATION!

ALL RIGHT! WE'LL STOP HERE TODAY!
START CLEAN-ING UP, PLEASE!

YOU'RE SURE SHE'S MEETING HIM TONIGHT?
SHE'S BEEN COMING HOME LATE TWO OR THREE DAYS A WEEK FOR A WHILE.
SHE SAID SHE'D BE HOME LATE TONIGHT, SO I'M POSITIVE.
FIRST THINGS FIRST, YOU HAVE TO LEARN ABOUT THE BOYFRIEND IN QUES-TION.
TAIL HER AND CATCH THEM TOGETH-ER.
AAAH! I'M GETTING NERVOUS!
OH, I BOUGHT THESE SINCE WE'LL BE HOME LATE.
ANPAN AND MILK.
ARE WE PLAYING DETECTIVE OR SOME-THING...?
THAT'S SO CLICHÉ.
HEY! SHE'S ON THE MOVE!
ANPAN



SHE WENT INTO A STAND-ING BAR...
MAYBE THEY'RE MEETING HERE.

BUT SHE STARTED DRINK-ING...
MAYBE HE'S GONNA BE LATE.

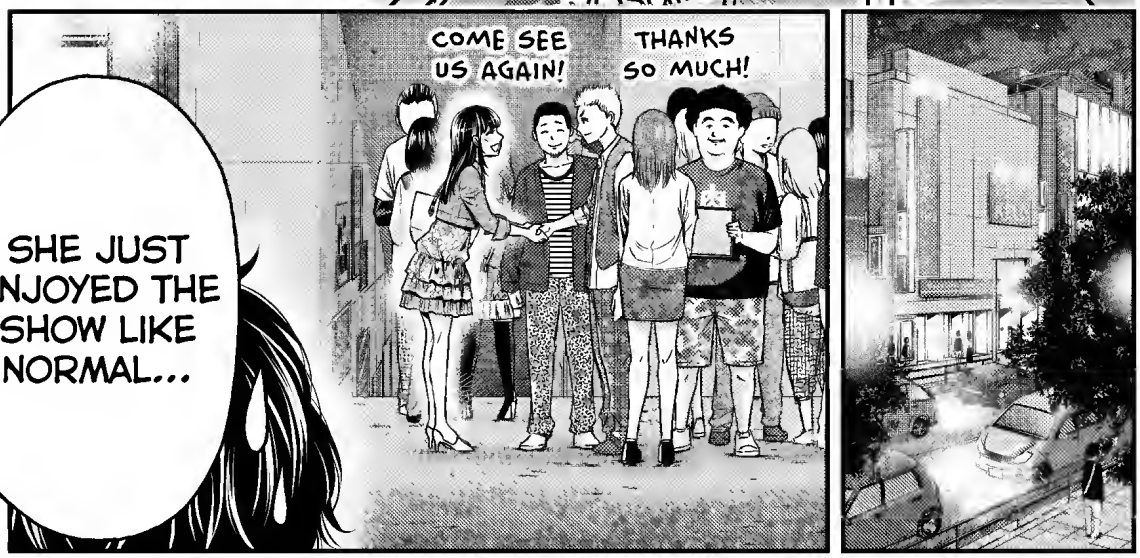
JUST WHO IS THIS GUY?
I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO SEE FOR MYSELF TODAY!

HEY.
WAKE UP.
NO...
!
IS HE HERE?
I THINK WE CAN RULE OUT THE CHANCE OF THEM MEETING TONIGHT.
FOUR HOURS AT A STANDING BAR?
LOOK, YOUR TAXI'S HERE!
BUHHH...
I HAVE A LOT GOING ON, OKAY?!
HINA-CHAN, I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.
SHE'S BEEN DRINKING BY HERSELF FOR THE PAST FOUR HOURS.
RATHER, SHE'S BEEN COMPLAINING TO THE BARKEEP...

OH...
COME TO THINK OF IT ...
...WHEN I WENT INTO HINA-NEE'S ROOM THE OTHER DAY...
...I SNUCK A PEEK AT THE PLANNER ON HER DESK...
...AND I SAW THAT SHE MARKED TOMORROW WITH "S."
30
S
19:00~
THAT'S IT!
THAT'S GOTTA STAND FOR "SHUU"!
THE GUY'S NAME!
SHE SURE IS IN A HURRY TODAY ...
MAYBE THEY REALLY ARE MEETING TODAY!
SEKAI

SHE'S GOING INTO THE SHOP DOWN-STAIRS!
DAMN IT... WE CAN'T FOLLOW HER LIKE THIS.
...
HEY, LOOK.

MORIPRO. AMATEUR COMEDY LIVE
SHOW 笑 TIME
~SHOWTIME~
VOL.9
FEATURING:
!
SHRIEK
THE "S" STOOD FOR "SHOW-TIME?!"
MORIPRO AMATEUR COMEDY LIVE


SHE JUST ENJOYED THE SHOW LIKE NORMAL...
COME SEE US AGAIN!
THANKS SO MUCH!

THAT WAS HILAR-IOUS! KEEP IT UP!
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HEADING HOME NOW.
SHE'S PLAYING BACK THE SHOW IN HER HEAD...
HE
HE
HE
HE
HE
小和証券

*YAKINIKU IS JAPANESE-STYLE BARBEQUE.

...GIRL?!
WHY MEET OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?!
THAT'S SO MISLEADING!
SKF
スSKFスSKF
FROM WHAT I COULD OVERHEAR,
APPARENTLY SHE'S ONE OF SENSEI'S STUDENTS ON HER WAY BACK FROM CRAM SCHOOL.
THEY'RE JUST TALKING ABOUT PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.
HMM.
SO FAR ...
...I JUST GET THE FEELING SHE'S A GOOD TEACHER ENJOYING HER DAILY LIFE.
I WONDER WHY SHE'S EVEN HAVING AN AFFAIR...

ALL RIGHT.
IF IT'S COME TO THIS ...
...THEN I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE OUR LAST RESORT.
COMMENCE OPERATION P...!
CLACK
カチャ
スルッ
SLIP

ニヤー
ア
ス
ア
ス
ア
ス
ニヤー
ス
ア
ス
ア
ス
ア
ス
SWISH
ニヤー
ア
ス
ア
ス
ア
ス
Done

UH-HUH.
DID YOU MANAGE TO SWIPE IT UNDETECTED?!
NICE!
CLACK
カチャ
DO YOU KNOW HER PASSWORD?
I'M PRETTY SURE SHE HAS IT SET AS HER BIRTHDAY.
TAP
タス
TAP
タス
BORROW HER *PHONE* AFTER SHE TAKES HER *PANTS* OFF...
...THEN *POSE* AS HER AND BREAK UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND!
I DUB IT, OPERATION P!
I'M AMAZED BY HIS PATHETIC NAMING SENSE.
READY? TRY TO IMITATE SENSEI'S VOICE AS BEST AS YOU CAN.
TRRR
トゥルルルル
TRRR
トゥルルルル
MAKE SURE YOU BREAK UP WITH HIM CLEARLY!
H
HIGHBALL
HAGIWARA SHUU
HANEDA RYOKO
HIYOSHIYA
THERE IT IS!

HINA-CHAN?
...
HELLO?
U-
UMM ...
ERR ...
I...
BOOP
HEEEY!
CRAP. I FORGOT SHE HAS TROUBLE COMMUNI-CATING!
I HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY BEFORE-HAND...
M-
MY HEAD WENT BLANK AS SOON AS I HEARD HIS VOICE...
YEAH ...
I COULD TELL.

TELL HIM YOU WANT TO BREAK UP!
HELLO?
Y-YES?
LOB LOB ILR ILR ILR ILR ILR ILR
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...
IT'S NO USE...
ズーン GLOOM
IT-
IT'S NOTHING!
HUH?
S-SOMETHING...?
NO, I...
BOOP

SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR / L'AMANT
喫茶&BAR
AND...
GLOOOM
ズゥゥゥン
OUR SHIP SUNK, CAPTAIN ...
...HERE WE ARE.
HMM ?
WHAT'S GOT YOU TWO SO DOWN?
I GUESS THIS MEANS WE GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD.
WELL... IT WAS PARTIALLY OUR FAULT FOR ASKING YOU TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE.
SORRY ...

BOSS ...
ACTUALLY, SOMEONE CLOSE TO NATSUO IS HAVING AN AFFAIR, SO WE'RE TRYING TO GET THEM TO BREAK IT OFF.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, KOBAYASHI-SAN?
AH, HA, HA!
FOR REAL?! OF COURSE I DON'T!
ALSO, I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME MARIE!

THIS IS NO LAUGH-ING MATTER!
WE'RE SERI-OUSLY WRACK-ING OUR BRAINS HERE...
I KNOW. I'M SORRY.
IT'S JUST ...

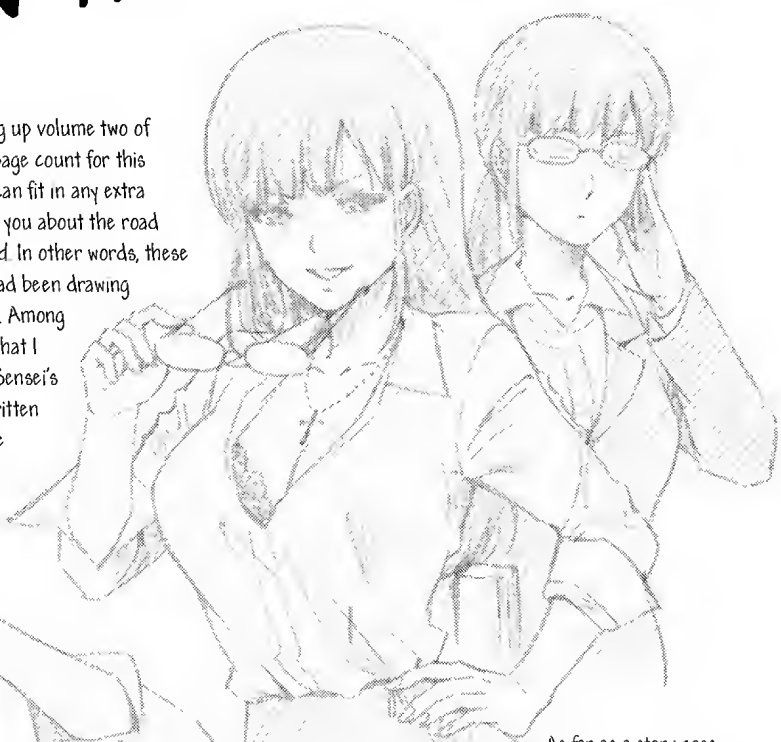
...I WAS THINK-ING...
...IT SURE IT GREAT TO BE YOUNG.
YOU KIDS ARE DAZ-ZLING.
HUH ...?
JINGLE JINGLE カラン カラーン

AH...
IT'S HIM ...

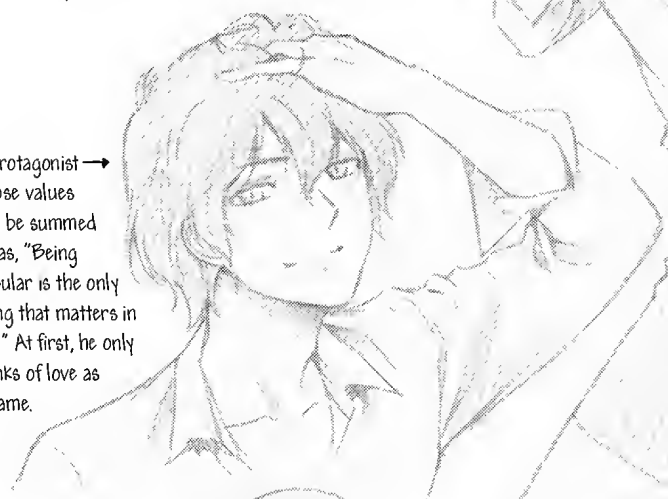
CHAPTER 9: CONFRONTATION

BONUS PROJECT
DOMESTIC GIRLFRIEND: IN THE MAKING 1

Hello, everyone! Thank you very much for picking up volume two of *Domestic Girlfriend*. Judging by the estimated page count for this volume, it looks like this will be the only place I can fit in any extra pages, so in place of an afterword, I'd like to tell you about the road leading up to the creation of *Domestic Girlfriend*. In other words, these were scrapped ideas. Before *DG* came to be, I had been drawing a story with very different elements and themes. Among them was one particularly well developed motif that I call, "The Playboy Protagonist and the Sadistic Sensei's Secret Relationship." At the time, Natsuo was written as a super popular, conceited tail-chaser. On the other hand, Hina was a normally plain, textbook teacher type, but when her switch was flipped on, she transformed into a hardcore sadist.



A protagonist → whose values can be summed up as, "Being popular is the only thing that matters in life!" At first, he only thinks of love as a game.



As far as a story goes, playboy Natsuo tries to seduce Hina to no avail, but when he insists on pursuing her, he has the tables turned on him when Hina goes into sadist mode. As a result, he becomes obsessed with Hina, the first woman he couldn't have his way with.

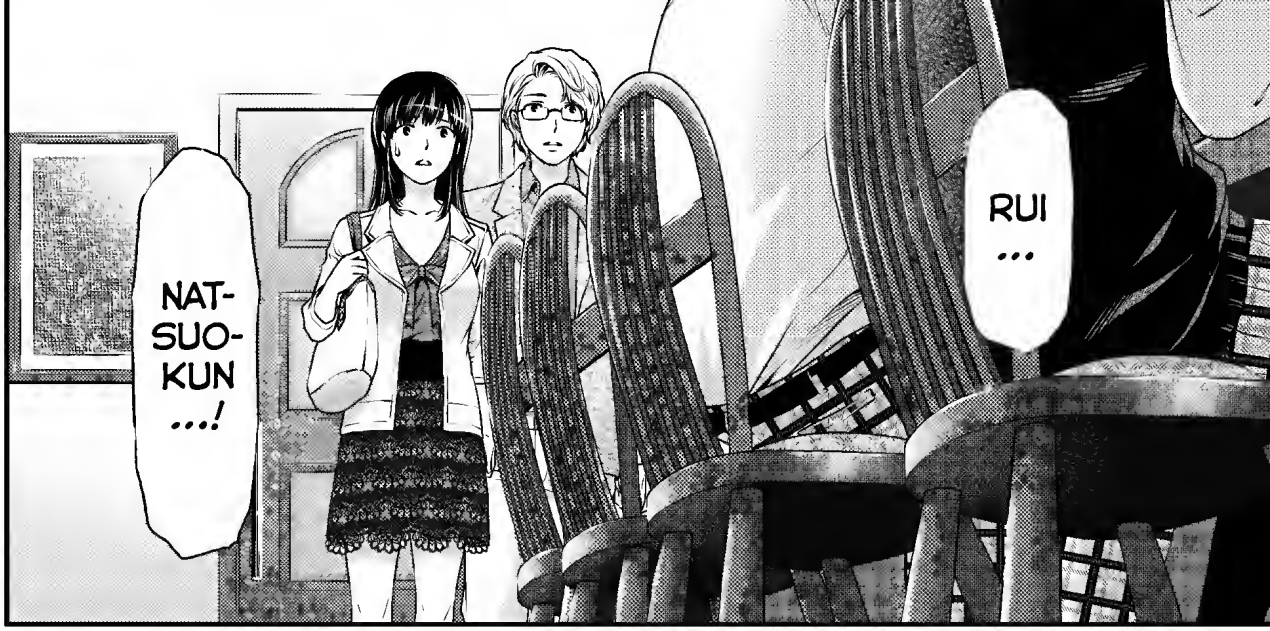
There was also the element that Natsuo looked like the only man Hina ever fell for.

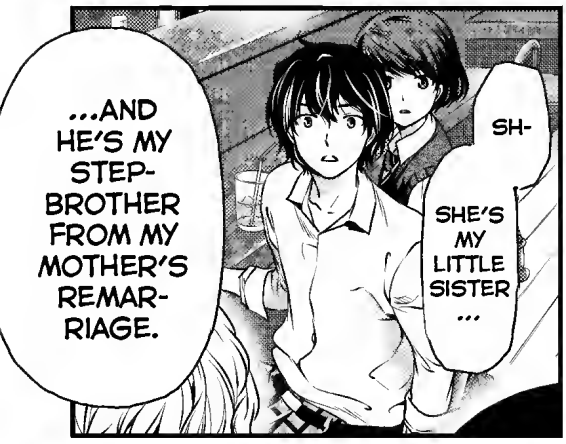
→ As for the general pattern, Natsuo would make a move on Hina only to get dealt a double helping of payback every time. My editor-in chief told me, "This is good enough to serialize, but I think you could go even further." As a result, DG was born.

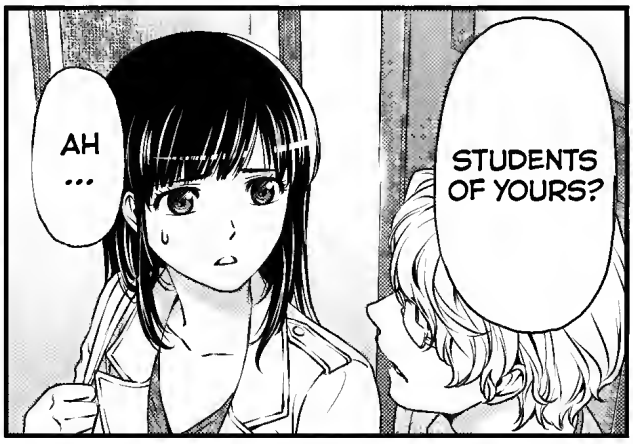
→ Now Rui's on equal footing with Hina as a heroine, but originally she was more of a sub-heroine who moves in with Natsuo after their parents remarry. Lively and unyielding, she was the type of girl who'd get furious at Natsuo while still caring about him.

← Karate Club

Well, then. I hope to see you again in volume three!

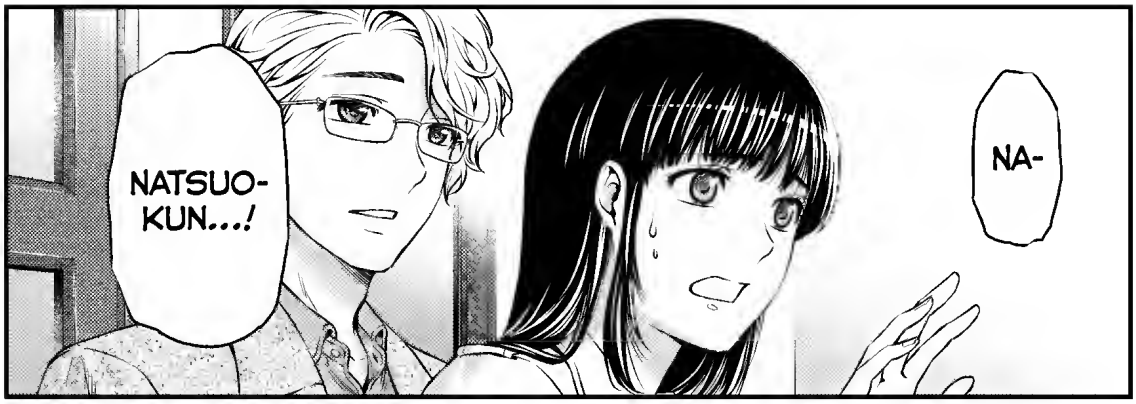

RUI
...
NAT-
SUO-
KUN
...!

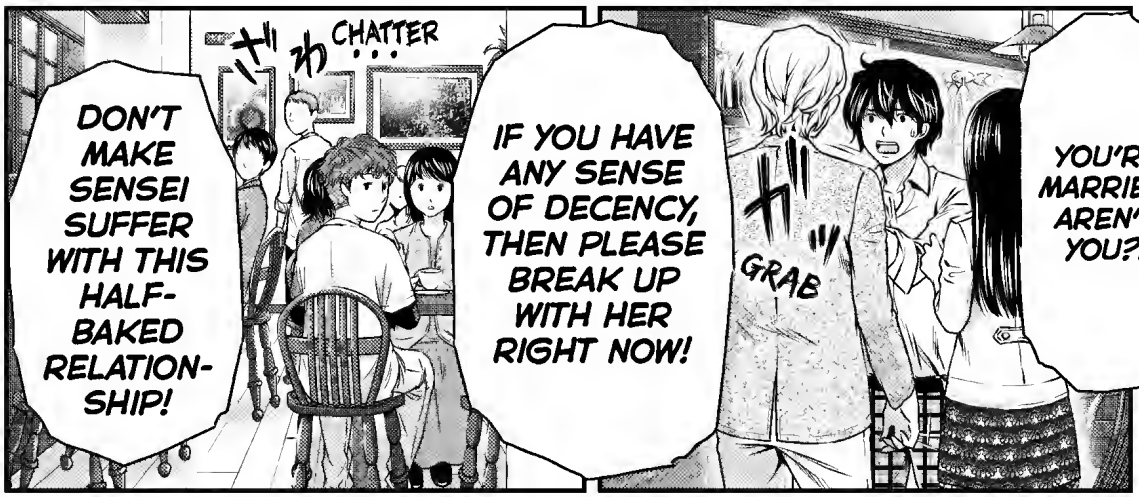

...AND
HE'S MY
STEP-
BROTHER
FROM MY
MOTHER'S
REMAR-
RIAGE.
SH-
SHE'S
MY
LITTLE
SISTER
...


AH
...
STUDENTS
OF YOURS?

CLUNK
カチャ
HINA-
NEE
...

PLEASE ...
...BREAK UP WITH SENSEI!


NA-
NATSUO-KUN...!

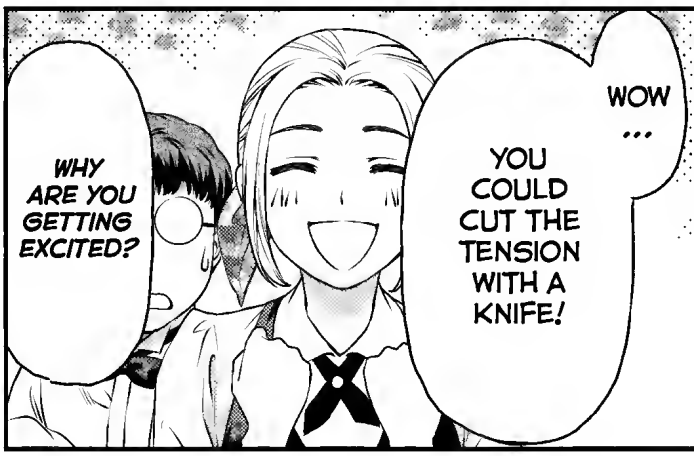

YOU'RE MARRIED, AREN'T YOU?!
GRAB
IF YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF DECENCY, THEN PLEASE BREAK UP WITH HER RIGHT NOW!
CHATTER
DON'T MAKE SENSEI SUFFER WITH THIS HALF-BAKED RELATION-SHIP!

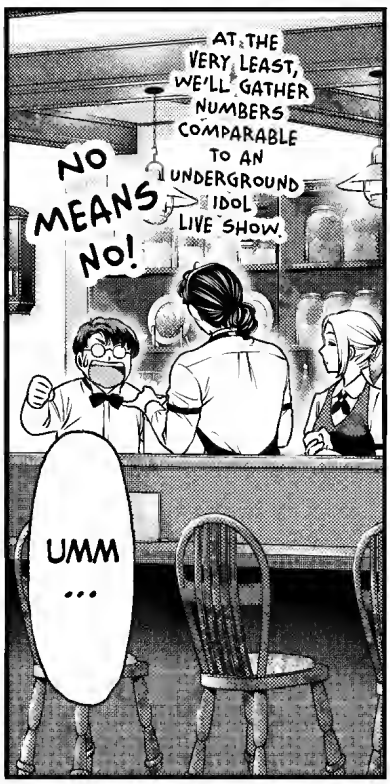
I'M SURE YOU MIGHT BE ENJOYING IT, BUT...
GRAB
CALM DOWN.
I WON'T ALLOW VIOLENCE IN THIS STORE.

...THERE'S NO AVOIDING THIS SITUATION.
IT WOULD APPEAR ...
WHY DON'T YOU ALL TAKE A TABLE IN THE BACK?
SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR / L'AMANT
THIS IS L'AMANT'S SPECIALTY NAPOLITAN WITH WHOLE SAUSAGE.
HERE YOU ARE.

PEOPLE TEND TO GET IRRITABLE WHEN THEY'RE HUNGRY.
EAT UP AND HAVE A CIVIL DISCUSSION.
IT'S MY TREAT.
IN THIS SITUATION, YOUR STORE'S NAME AND MENU COULDN'T BE MORE IRONIC.
L'AMANT = LOVER

NOW, NOW. THAT'S NO GOOD.
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER FOR THEM.


WOW ...
YOU COULD CUT THE TENSION WITH A KNIFE!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING EXCITED?


AT THE VERY LEAST, WE'LL GATHER NUMBERS COMPARABLE TO AN UNDERGROUND IDOL LIVE SHOW.
NO MEANS NO!
UMM ...

STOP THAT RIGHT NOW.
WE HAVE TO TURN THIS INTO A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!
WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES BE THE ONLY ONES WHO ENJOY IT.
I'M GONNA POST THIS UP IN FRONT OF THE STATION.
NOW!
A CAFÉ WHERE YOU CAN WATCH PANDEMONIUM BETWEEN LOVERS UNFOLD.
L'AMANT

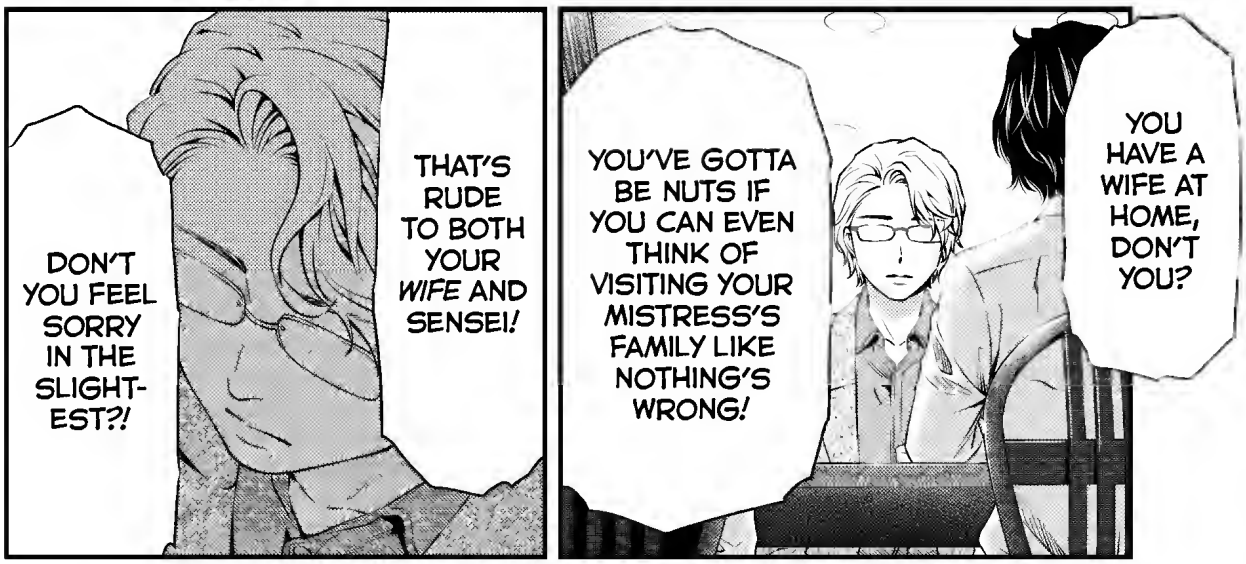
YOU GUYS ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL JUST START BY INTRO-DUCING MYSELF.
...WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN, I WONDER?
IT'S HARD TO SPEAK UNDER SO MUCH PRESSURE.
MY NAME IS SHUU HAGI-WARA.
I'M 32 YEARS OLD,
MARRIED WITH NO CHILDREN.
...!
I CURRENTLY WORK AS A BIOLOGY RESEARCHER AT A UNIVER-SITY LAB.
FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS ...
...I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF DATING HINA-SAN.

WHO WAS IT?
SINCE EVEN BEFORE...
...I MET SENSEI...
WHICH OF YOU ...
...ASKED THE OTHER OUT?
WHICH OF YOU IS GUILTY DEPENDS ON THAT.

...
WHICH OF US IS "GUILTY," HUH?
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE IF THIS HAS CAUSED YOU ANY GRIEF.
WE NEVER REALLY OFFICIALLY AGREED TO START DATING.
BUT I WAS THE ONE MADE THE FIRST MOVE,
SO I SUP-POSE I'M GUILTY.
SENSEI...
I'VE NEVER...
...SEEN HER WITH THAT EXPRESSION BEFORE.

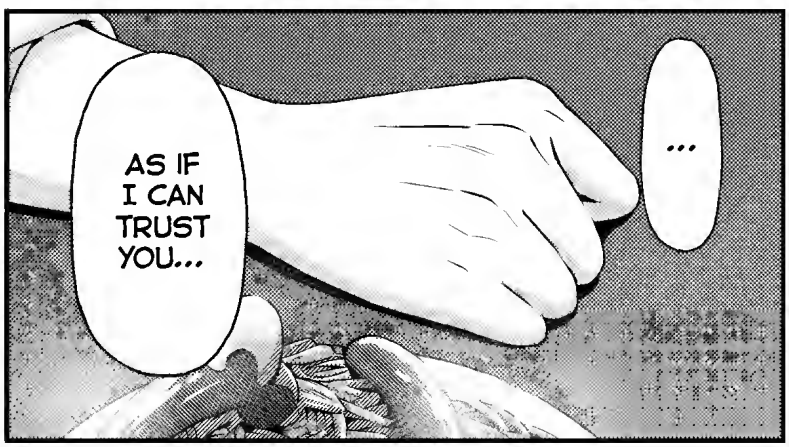
I HEARD THAT HINA-SAN MOVED AND HAD HER FAMILY GROW RECENTLY.
TO BE HONEST, I'D WANTED TO VISIT YOU PROPERLY...
RATHER THAN HAVE OUR RELATIONSHIP "FOUND OUT" LIKE THIS.
HUH ...?
VISIT US?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT POSITION YOU'RE IN?
WHAT IT IS YOU'RE DOING?
YOU'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR!


YOU HAVE A WIFE AT HOME, DON'T YOU?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE NUTS IF YOU CAN EVEN THINK OF VISITING YOUR MISTRESS'S FAMILY LIKE NOTHING'S WRONG!
THAT'S RUDE TO BOTH YOUR *WIFE* AND SENSEI!
DON'T YOU FEEL SORRY IN THE SLIGHTEST?!

...
BUT EVEN SO...
I DO ...
...I STILL LOVE HINA-CHAN.
I ASSURE YOU I'M NOT JUST FOOLING AROUND.
I'M VERY SERI-OUS.
NATSUO-KUN, WAS IT?
YOU SEEM TO RESENT ME DUE TO THE FACT THAT I'M MARRIED, CORRECT?
IN THAT CASE ...

...IF I GET DIVORCED...
...WILL YOU GIVE US YOUR BLESSING?


...
AS IF I CAN TRUST YOU...

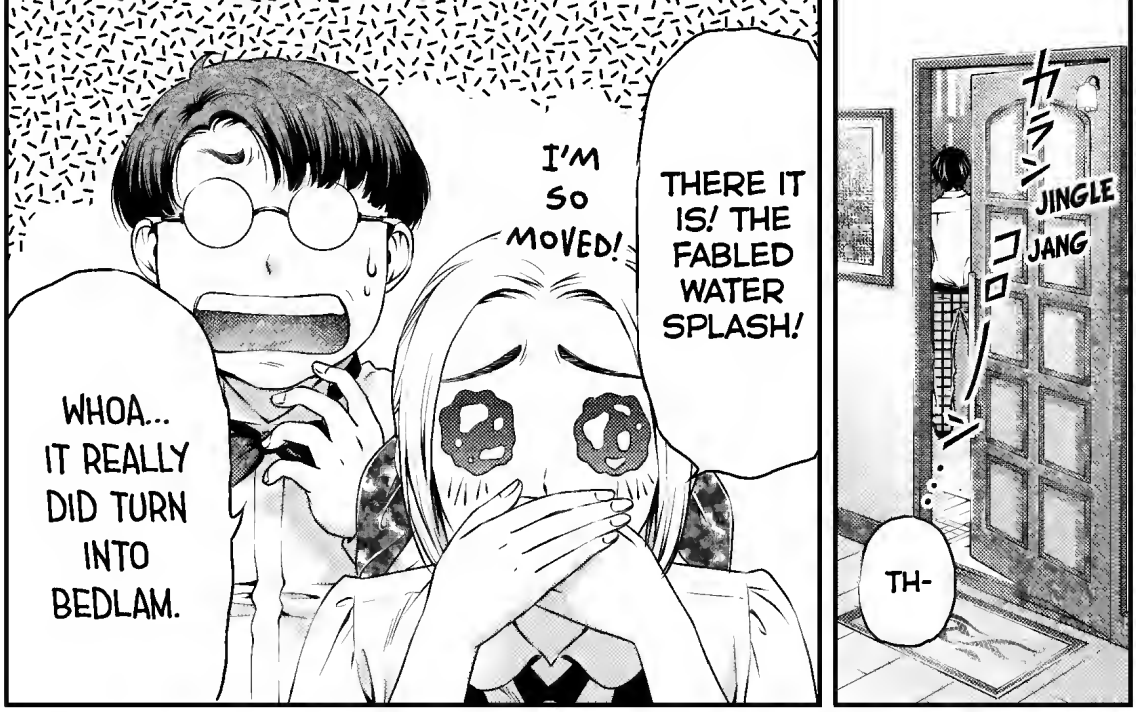
...!

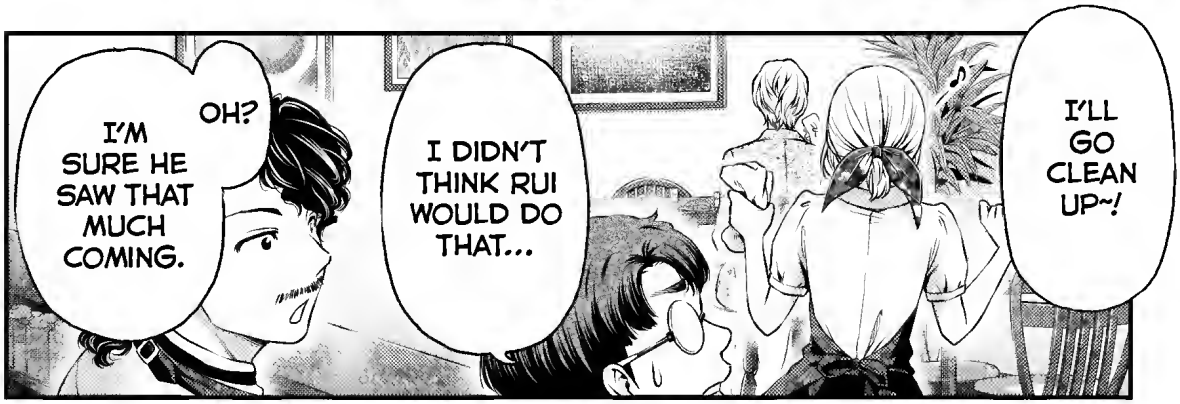
WHAT?
NATSUO-KUN...!

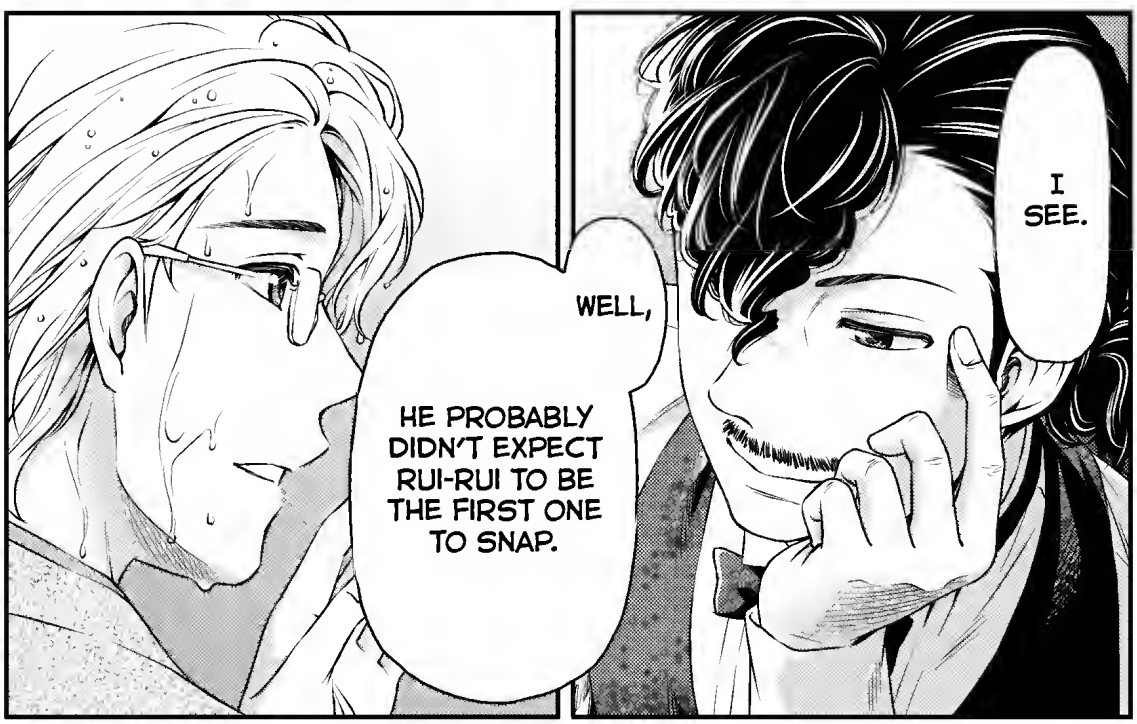
I HARDLY THINK SOMEONE WHO MAKES SENSEI CRY AT THIS POINT...
...COULD EVER MAKE HER HAPPY.

I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SUFFER-ING THAT MUCH.
YOU CRIED ...?
...
SWIF
I'M SO SORRY ...
...BUT THINGS JUST AREN'T THAT SIMPLE.
I NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME.
BUT ... I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I?
I WANT TO THROW AWAY EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO BE WITH YOU...
GRAB
THEN...
HEY!
WOULD YOU JUST-

R-
RUI ...
...OH.
THE NAPOLI-TAN...
HEY ...!
DASH!


THERE IT IS! THE FABLED WATER SPLASH!
I'M SO MOVED!
WHOA... IT REALLY DID TURN INTO BEDLAM.
カラン
JINGLE
JANG
コロ
ン
TH-


I'LL GO CLEAN UP~!
I DIDN'T THINK RUI WOULD DO THAT...
OH?
I'M SURE HE SAW THAT MUCH COMING.

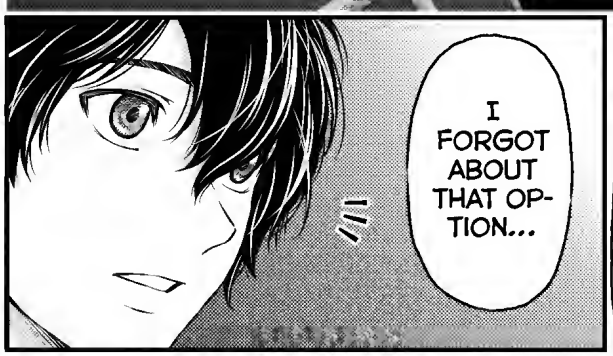

I SEE.
WELL,
HE PROBABLY DIDN'T EXPECT RUI-RUI TO BE THE FIRST ONE TO SNAP.

GRAB

H-HOLD UP...
JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP RUNNING ?!
WHEEZE ゼ"ェ
ゼ"ェ PANT
WE'VE EASILY BEEN RUNNING FOR OVER TEN MINUTES!
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT...
ゼ"ェ WHEEZE

I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO FOLLOW ME.

IF YOU HADN'T DONE THAT...
...THEN I WOULD HAVE.


I FORGOT ABOUT THAT OPTION...

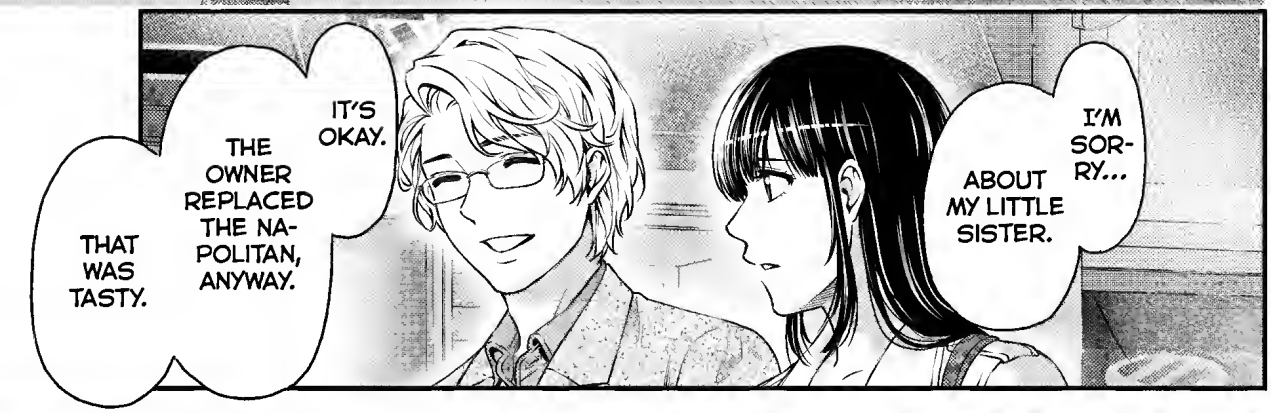
ERR...
ACTUALLY, MAYBE IT WAS BETTER THAT YOU DID IT.
I MIGHT HAVE PUNCHED HIM, INSTEAD.

OH?
WANNA GO BEAT HIM UP TOGETHER, THEN?
WE WON'T BOTHER ANYONE IF IT'S OUTSIDE THE STORE.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT JERK'S FACE EVER AGAIN.
WHOA ...
WAY TO HANG ME OUT TO DRY.
GIVE HIM MY SHARE TOO WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
GO FOR IT.
... TRAT-ED...
...TO WATCH HER BELOVED BIG SISTER GET PLAYED LIKE THAT.
SHE WAS ABSOLUTELY FURIOUS...
...I'M NOT SURPRISED.

I'M SO FRUS-TRATED ...!

SABURO
FUKUTAN
JINGLE
カラーン…


I'M SORRY... ABOUT MY LITTLE SISTER.
IT'S OKAY. THE OWNER REPLACED THE NAPOLITAN, ANYWAY. THAT WAS TASTY.

KIDS THEIR AGE HAVE A PARTICULARLY STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE.
I CAN UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE TO ASSERT WHAT IS "RIGHT" THAT STRONGLY.
…
THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I REALIZED ASIDE FROM THEIR OBJECTION.

NAT-
SUO-
KUN
...
...IS IN LOVE WITH YOU, ISN'T HE?
AND HOW ...
...DO YOU FEEL?

WHAT?
ABOUT NATSUO-KUN.
DON'T BE SILLY.
HE'S JUST A CHILD.
OH?
YOU DON'T REALLY SEEM TO THINK THAT TO ME.
STOP MAKING ABSURD ASSUMP-TIONS.
THEY'RE BOTH IM-PORTANT FAMILY TO ME.

AND ...
AFTER SEEING MY IMPORTANT FAMILY TODAY...
...I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
IT WAS JUST A JOKE.
SORRY, SORRY.
I THINK ...
...WE SHOULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE.

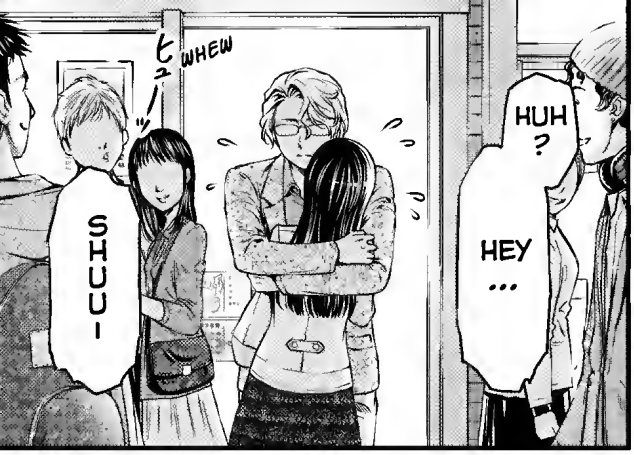
CHAPTER 10: REPORT

I THINK...
...WE SHOULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE.

YOU MEAN...
...YOU WANT TO BREAK UP?

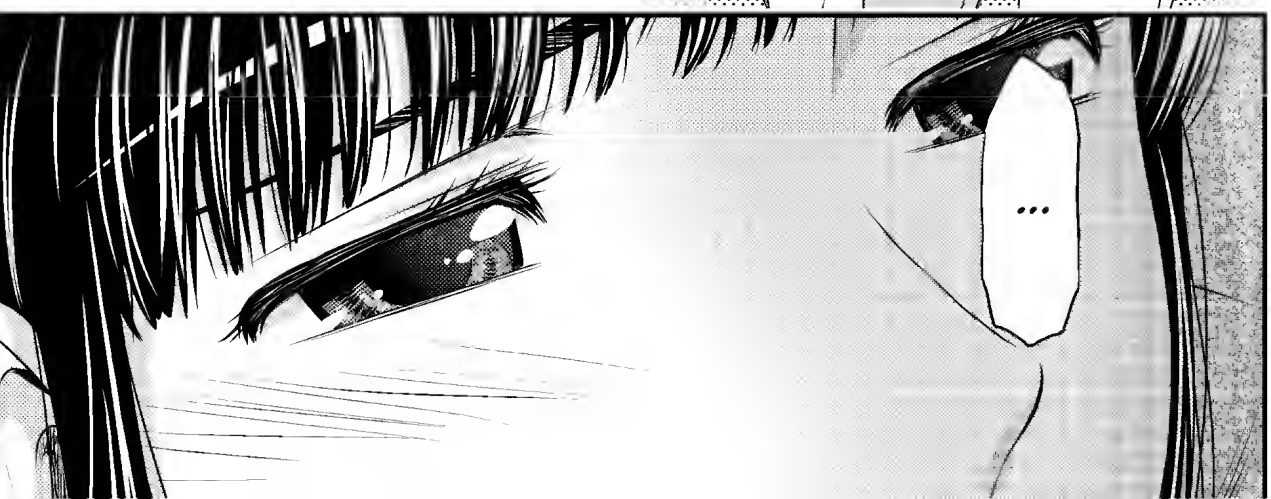
PULL
I DON'T WANT TO HURT THOSE TWO ANY-

...


WHEW
ヒュー
HUH?
HEY...
SHUUU

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

NOT THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?


...

ピ BEEP
ピ BEEP
ピ BEEP
SMACK
ピ BEEP
ピ BEEP
ピ BEEP
ピ BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
TEXAS
SINCE 1966
LONESTAR
カラ…
SLIDE
…

!
TURN
くるっ
OH... IT'S YOU.
THAT STAR-TLED ME.
!
WHAT, YOUR HAIR GETS FRIZZY, TOO?
UH-HUH. NOT AS MUCH AS YOURS, THOUGH.
I'D SAY YOU'RE GIVING ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY.
ARE MY EYES STILL PUFFY?
A LIT-TLE.
HMM...
HEY...
ARE YOU OKAY NOW?
...
YEAH.

WELL, IF ANYONE ASKS ABOUT YOUR EYES, JUST TELL THEM YOU DIDN'T GET MUCH SLE-
...WHAT'S THIS?
THAT'S ONE BIG MARK.
EVERY-ONE'S BEEN COMING HOME SO LATE RE-CENTLY.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE FORGOT-TEN.
BA-DOOM
MOTHER'S DAY
5
May
MOTHER'S DAY...
WHY DON'T WE ORDER SUSHI TONIGHT?
OH, CRAP. I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND SO MUCH THAT I TOTALLY DID FORGET...

...!
DID YOU DRAW IT, FUJII-SAN?
THAT'S RIGHT.
DID YOU REMEMBER MOTHER'S DAY?
WOW!
WHAT A BIG FLOWER MARK.
OF COURSE!
THE TWO OF US SHOPPED FOR A PRESENT TOGETHER EVERY YEAR.
RIGHT,
RUI?
WHAT?
WE'VE NEVER FORCED OUR-SELVES!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELVES, OKAY?
...
...

THANKS FOR BREAK-FAST.
RUI.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT THIS YEAR'S PRESENT?
...
...
NAT-SUO-KUN,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME SHOPPING WITH US TODAY, TOO?

!
UHH ...
WELL ...
SOR-RY ...
I HAVE PLANS TODAY.
I'LL GET A PRESENT ON MY OWN.
ARE YOU GOING TODAY?
YEAH.
CAN YOU SEND MY LOVE, TOO?
I'LL GO NEXT WEEK.
SURE.
WHERE IS HE GOING?
!!
OH ...
HE GOES ON THIS DAY EVERY YEAR...

...TO VISIT HIS MOM.

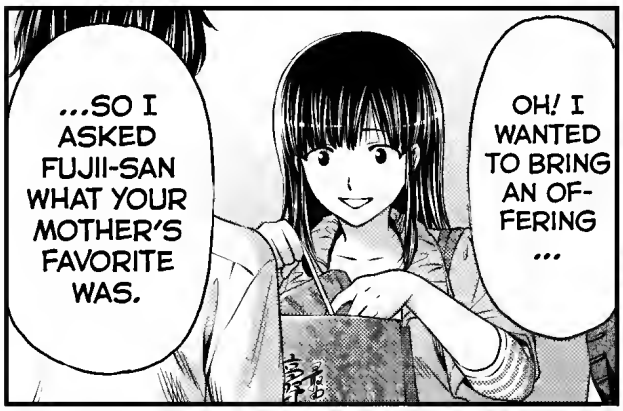
SLIDE
カラララ…
OOP!
I HAD A FEELING HE WAS HERE.
HI, DEAR.
IS NATSUO CRYING AGAIN?
HE SAYS HE COULDN'T FIND ANYONE DURING HIDE-AND-SEEK.
HA HA HA
ばはは
I GUESS BECOMING A FIRST GRADER DIDN'T MAKE HIM ANY LESS OF A CRYBABY.

OH, RIGHT!
SO I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU, NATSUO...
...AND I ORDERED THESE ONLINE!
I THOUGHT MAYBE TRAINING WOULD HELP FIX HIS CRYING HABIT.
I MEAN, I WISH I COULD CHEER YOU UP LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME...
...BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO FOREVER.
WHENEVER I SEE YOU CRY...
...I GET SO WORRIED, I FEEL MY HEART MIGHT BREAK IN TWO.

NAT-
SUO,
DID YOU SAY GOODBYE TO MOM?
NAT-
SUO
...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
IT'S OKAY ...
TO CRY TODAY.

MOM ...
...WILL BE SAD.
...
RUSTLE くしゃ...
IT'S OKAY, SON...
JUST FOR TODAY ...
...MOM WILL UNDER-STAND.

TEN YEARS, HUH?
TO BE HONEST, I'VE LONG SINCE GOTTEN USED TO IT,
BUT SOMETIMES I STILL WONDER HOW THINGS WOULD BE IF SHE WERE STILL ALIVE.
...
I WONDER WHAT MOM WOULD SAY...
...IF SHE COULD SEE ME NOW.



*A JAPANESE SWEET MADE OF SWEET BEAN JAM SANDWICHED BETWEEN TWO WAFERS.

I BROKE UP WITH SHUU-SAN...
...AND AM WHOLE-SOMELY SINGLE AGAIN.
UM...
I KNOW I PUSHED YOU TO BREAK UP AND ALL...
BUT ARE YOU OKAY WITH IT?
HE'D BEEN TELLING ME HE WAS GOING TO LEAVE HIS WIFE, OR NOT, FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS.
I HAD A FEELING IT WAS NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN, BUT I JUST COULDN'T GIVE UP ON HIM.
HE WAS MY FIRST LOVE, AFTER ALL...

BUT THEN I REAL-IZED ...
YOU GUYS ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO ME.
I'M SOR-RY,
FOR EVERY-THING.
...
THAT'S GOOD NEWS, HUH?
...
YEAH.
...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HER SMILE.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S SAY HI, SHALL WE?
RUI, WILL YOU PLACE THE FLOW-ERS?
WE HOPE ...
YOU'LL WATCH OVER US.
HINA, WE'RE NATSUO-KUN'S NEW FAMILY,
AND RUI.

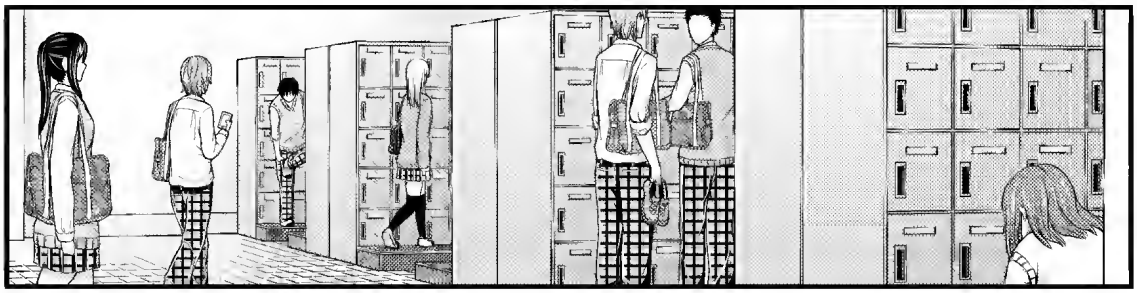
CHAPTER 11: A NEW LOVE

HINA-NEE, YOU LEFT YOUR ASPARAGUS AGAIN.
YOU LIKE ASPAR-AGUS, RIGHT?
YOU CAN HAVE MINE.
AREN'T YOU EMBAR-RASSED TO BE A PICKY EATER AT YOUR AGE?
BUT IT'S EVEN MORE PUNGENT THAN USUAL TODAY...
THIS IS WHY YOUR SKIN'S BEEN SO DRY LATELY!
NUH-UH... THAT'S PROBA-BLY THE ALCOHOL'S FAULT...
THEN ALL THE MORE REASON YOU SHOULD EAT YOUR VEGETA-BLES!
WHIP
NO WAY! EAT YOUR OWN!

HUH?
THAT YOU GUYS CAN TALK LIKE NORMAL AGAIN.
I'M KINDA RELIEVED
SISTERS SHOULD ALWAYS BE ON GOOD TERMS.
IT'S ONE THING SINCE I'M KIND OF THE NEW-COMER...
...BUT WHEN YOU TWO ARE AT ODDS, THE WHOLE HOUSE FEELS TENSE.
...
THAT REMINDS ME.
TWITCH
WHAT MADE YOU RUN AWAY FROM HOME IN THE FIRST PLACE?
HUH ...?
ERM ...
THAT'S, UHH...

...
HOW DO YOU FORGET SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

DASH
I-
I FOR-GOT!

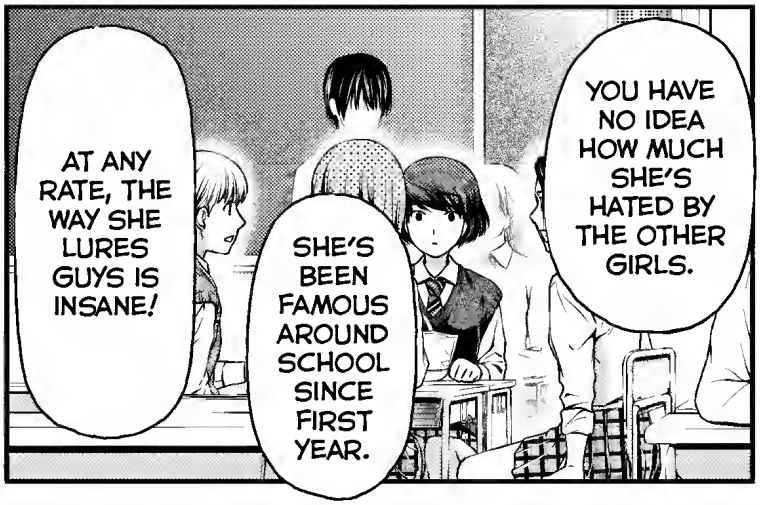


MAYBE HE FOUND A NAUGHTY DVD OR SOME-THING.

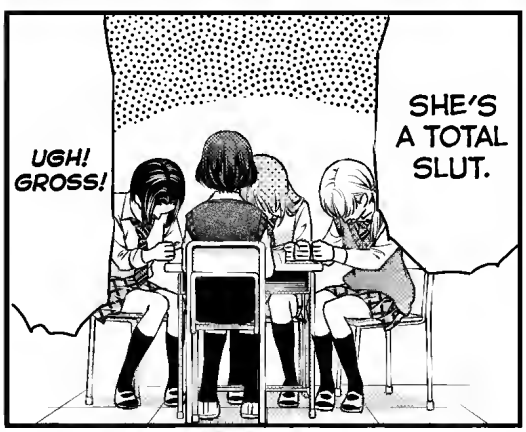
SUPER WEIRD!
AH...
TACHIBANA-SAN!
GOOD MORNING. ♥
...MORNING.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME? WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS.
I'M MOMO KASHIWABARA. NICE TO MEET YOU. ♥
!!!
OH!
ARE YOU ...CURIOUS ABOUT THESE?
AREN'T THEY CUTE? I MADE THEM ALL MYSELF! ♥
YEAH... I'M CURIOUS IN A LOT OF WAYS ...
SETTING ASIDE WHETHER THEY'RE CUTE OR NOT.

THE TRUTH IS,
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO YOU ...
...EVER SINCE YOU TRANS-FERRED IN.
I KNOW!
TO CELE-BRATE OUR FRIEND-SHIP...
...I'LL GIVE YOU THE BEST ONE I'VE MADE.
BUN-CHAN!
RUI!

LET'S EAT LUNCH TOGETHER!
OH.
OKAY.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
AH!
DID YOU GET THAT FROM MOMO KASHIWABARA?!
THAT WAS CLOSE. YOU ALMOST GOT INFECTED BY THE NYMPHO BUG.
YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM HER, RUI!
BA
EWW!
DON'T TOUCH IT!
DUNK
NYMPHO ...?


AT ANY RATE, THE WAY SHE LURES GUYS IS INSANE!
SHE'S BEEN FAMOUS AROUND SCHOOL SINCE FIRST YEAR.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH SHE'S HATED BY THE OTHER GIRLS.

SHE JUMPS FROM GUY TO GUY!
THAT'S RIGHT!


UGH! GROSS!
SHE'S A TOTAL SLUT.

HMM ...
...

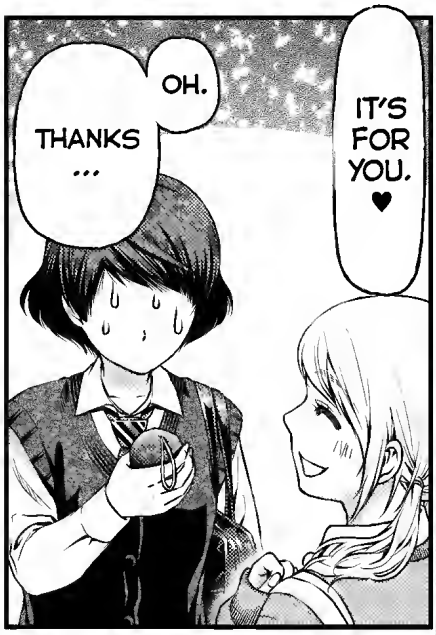
CLUNK

OR HOW SHE SHOWS HER CLEAV-AGE ON PURPOSE DURING SUMMER!
LIKE HER FLIRTY VOICE WHEN SHE TALKS TO THEM!
OR HOW SHE'LL BEND OVER AND FLASH HER PANTIES IN FRONT OF GUYS!
THERE'S EVEN A RUMOR SHE TRIED A SIXSOME ONCE!

...WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM HER...
...IS MY DECISION TO MAKE.
RUI ...?
EVEN IF ALL THAT'S TRUE ...
TACHIBANA-SAAAN!

REMEMBER THE BUNNY I GAVE YOU THIS MORNING?
WELL ...
I TRIED MAKING THIS DURING BREAK, TOO.

UMM ...
MOMO KASHIWA-BARA!
CALL ME MOMO.


IT'S FOR YOU. ♥
OH.
THANKS ...

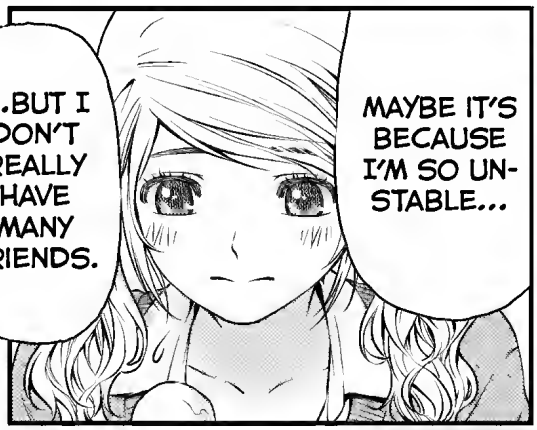
TACHI-BANA-SAN!

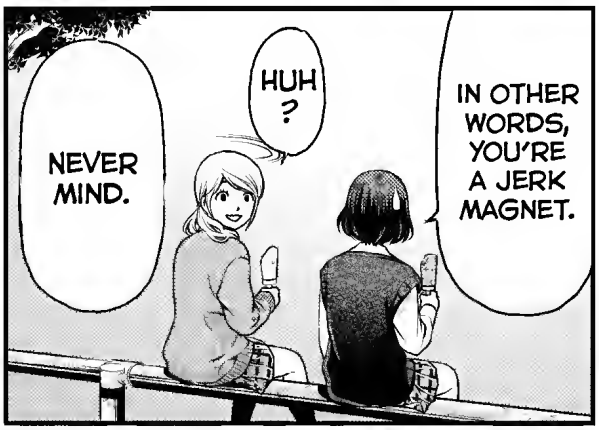
ARE YOU GOING HOME ALONE ?
YEAH.
LET'S GO TOGETHER, THEN!

I LOVE SALTED VANILLA THE MOST!
MMM! SOOO GOOD!
DVD
LICK
コロミス
...
SAY, MOMO.
L'AMANT'S OWNER DID, TOO...
WHY REPEAT IT?
HAVE YOU... BEEN IN A LOT OF RELATION-SHIPS?
UMM ...
SURE ...
HEY, IS IT OKAY IF I CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME, TOO?
YAY! RUI-RUI IT IS, THEN! ♥

MMM...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT A LOT.
BUT IF I HAD TO COUNT...
...
DID SOME-ONE TELL YOU ABOUT ME?
...I GUESS I'VE BEEN WITH...
...30 OR SO GUYS?
WHAT ABOUT THE SIX-SOME?
SIX-SOME?
LIKE IN GOLF?
OH, BUT NEVER MORE THAN ONE AT A TIME.
I ALWAYS BREAK UP BEFORE DATING SOMEONE ELSE.
WELL, NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERS...
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S AMAZING OR APPALLING...
I GUESS THAT'S JUST A RUMOR...
MY RELA-TIONSHIPS JUST NEVER SEEM TO WORK OUT, Y'KNOW?

WE'LL ALWAYS START OUT LOVEY-DOVEY,
BUT AFTER A WHILE THEY START TO GET KINDA VIOLENT,
HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE?
OR THEY'LL EVEN-TUALLY CHEAT ON ME,
OR STEAL MONEY FROM MY PURSE.
ONE EVEN TRIED TO KEEP ME LOCKED UP.
I CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL LIKE THIS.
SHE'S #3.
DON'T WORRY.
IT'S ALL GONE!
MY MONEY!


MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M SO UN-STABLE...
...BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE MANY FRIENDS.


IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A JERK MAGNET.
HUH?
NEVER MIND.

...
SURE.

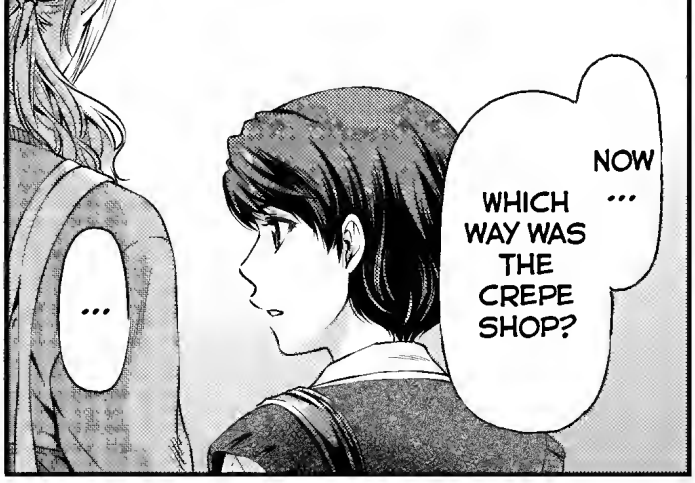
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU...
...I'D LIKE IT IF WE COULD HANG OUT MORE. ♥

RUI-RUI!
LET'S GO TO MUSIC CLASS TO-GETHER!
BATH-ROOM, RUI-RUI? ME, TOO.
HEY, RUI-RUI. THERE'S A SUPER GOOD CREPE SHOP HERE.
MY NEW-EST CRE-ATION!
WANNA GO HOME TOGETHER, RUI-RUI?

AH.
HEY. NATSUO FUJII.
HI! I'M MOMO KASHI-WABARA.
IT'S NOT EVERYDAY YOU GO HOME WITH FRIENDS.
ARE YOU GOING HOME?
YEAH, I'M GONNA STOP BY THE BOOK-STORE, THOUGH.
OH! WE'RE GOING, TOO. WANNA COME WITH US?
ARE YOU RUI-RUI'S FRIEND?
UHH ... WELL, SOME-THIN' LIKE THAT.

BUNGEIKATO
WEEKLY PUBLICATIO
WOW ...
THAT LOOKS REALLY HARD TO READ.
BOOKS
本
BOOKSTORE YUU
ブックストア悠
OH, IT'S NOT TOO BAD.
IT HAS EASY-TO-READ SHORT STORIES, TOO.
I CAN LEND YOU A COL-LECTION IF YOU'RE INTER-ESTED.
HUH ?
SURE ...
I MIGHT WANNA CHECK IT OUT...

LOOK OUT!
PULL
AH HA HA
あはは
JING
チリン
JING
チリン
JEEZ. THIS IS A SIDE-WALK, Y'KNOW ...
YOU'RE SO KIND, NATSUO-KUN.
HUH? ISN'T THIS JUST COMMON COURTESY?

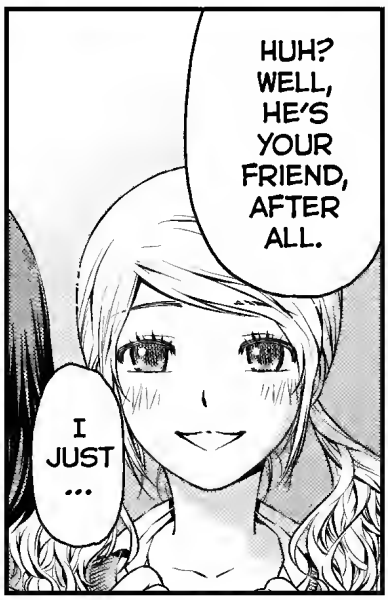

NOW ...
WHICH WAY WAS THE CREPE SHOP?
...

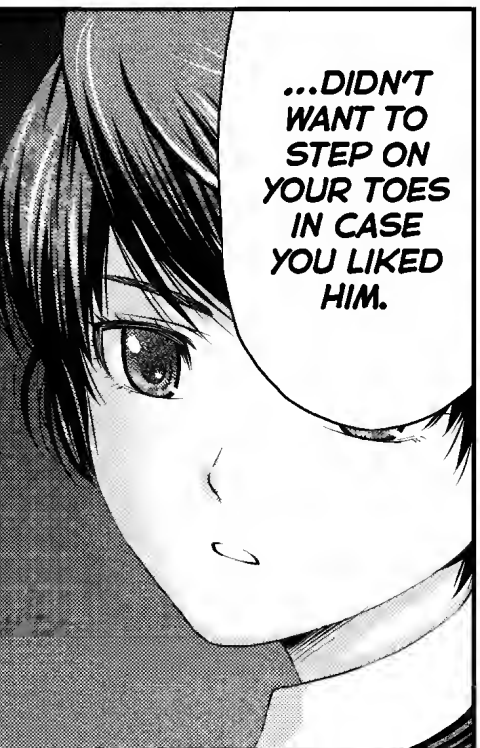
WE'RE GONNA STOP SOMEWHERE ELSE FIRST.
OKAY.
LATER.

HEY, RUI-RUI.
DOES NATSUO-KUN HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?

IS IT OKAY ...
...IF I FALL FOR HIM?

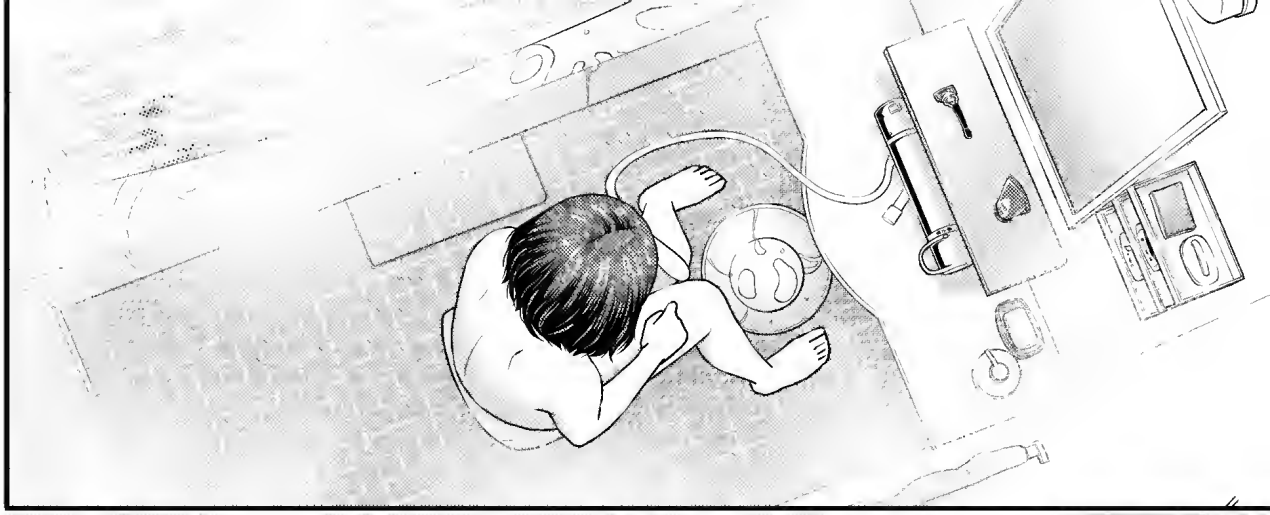
CHAPTER 12: LOVE RIVALS?!





...
IT MAKES ...
NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.
REALLY ?!
THANK GOD!
THEN I'M GONNA TRY TO GO OUT WITH NATSUO-KUN!
WISH ME LUCK, OKAY? ♥
WHOA!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS HEAD? IS SOMEONE TRYING TO CURSE YOU?
TOO SPOOKY.
NO, I DON'T THINK IT'S VOODOO.
I DUNNO. NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...
...

HEY.
DO YOU...
HM?
...
HUH?
OKAY THEN...
NEVER MIND.
...
SQUEAK
...
DRIP
ポタ
DRIP
ポタ...

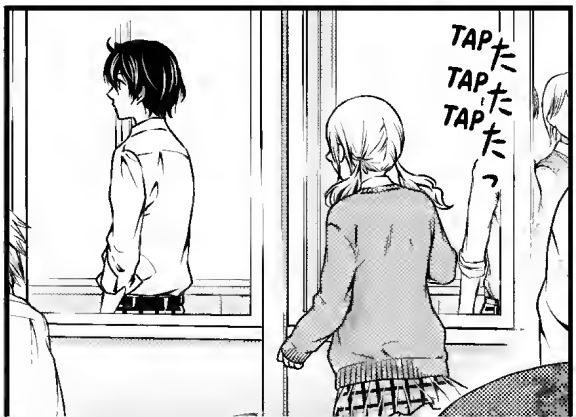


DOESN'T RUI'S FACE LOOK PRETTY RED?

!!!
WAY TO GO, DUMMY!
LET ME COPY~ YOURS!
OH, CRAP! I'M GONNA GET CALLED ON FOR CLASSIC LIT TODAY BUT I FORGOT MY NOTES!
HUH?

YOU SHOULD GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
!!!

SHE'S RIGHT.
ARE YOU SICK?
YOU MIGHT HAVE A FEVER?


TAP
TAP
TAP
たたたっ

DING キーン
DONG コーン
DANG カーン…
HUH?
I HAVE A LITTLE FEVER...
YOU GOIN' HOME, RUI-CHAN?
FOR REAL? YOU OKAY?
CAN YOU MAKE IT HOME BY YOUR-SELF?
YEAH ...
WHY ARE YOU TALKIN' LIKE HER BOY-FRIEND?

WHA?
HOW SO...?
KA-
KASHI-WABARA-SAN?!
MOMO...
SNEAK
IS SHE GONNA BE OKAY?
YANK
!

*LINE IS A CALL AND MESSENGER PROGRAM AKIN TO SKYPE.

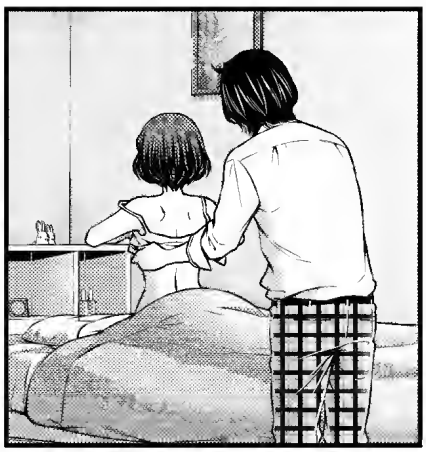
G-GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER ...
...OVER LINE, OKAY?!
DASH
I CAN SEE YOUR STRING PANTIES CLEAR AS DAY...
...
AN-SWER ?
Would you like to go on a date after school today?
SPSHHH

HEY. YOU AWAKE?
...
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING? I FOUND YOU COLLAPSED AT THE FRONT DOOR.
SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME.
...DIDN'T MOMO ...
...ASK YOU OUT?
HUH?
SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO YESTER-DAY...
YEAH ...
SHE GAVE ME HER ID AND TOLD ME TO ANSWER HER OVER LINE...
...BUT I DON'T EVEN USE LINE.
PLUS, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS AND GO HANG OUT.
...
ANYWAY, DRINK SOME WATER.
IS THERE ANY-THING I CAN GET YOU?

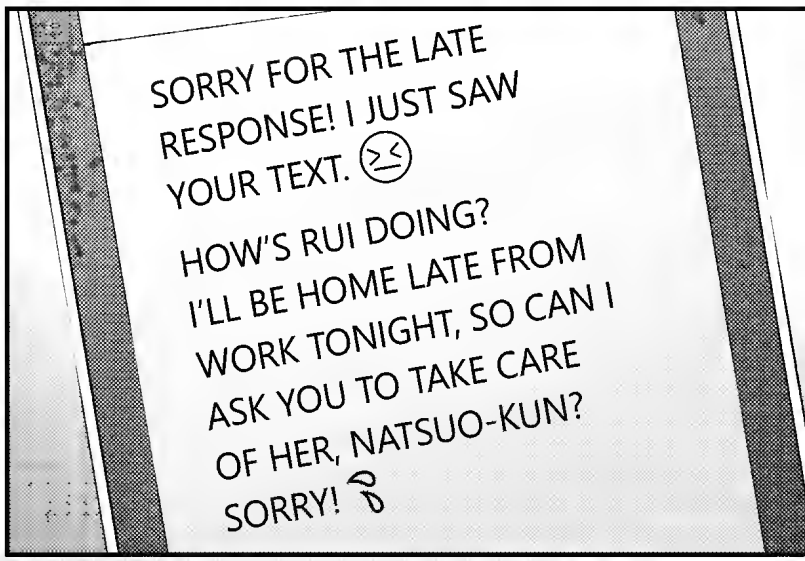
I'M ALL SWEATY.
I WANT TO WIPE DOWN AND CHANGE.
WARM WATER ...
AND PAJA-MAS ...
...A TOWEL ...
STRIP
WHA–
HEY!
C'MON, MAN!
WHY ARE YOU GET-TING ALL FLUS-TERED?
!
HEY... ARE YOU OKAY?
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING TO EAT, I'LL BRING...

...
AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL I LEAVE THE ROOM!
OH, WIPE MY BACK BEFORE YOU LEAVE, PLEASE.
STEP-SIS-TER!
SICK PER-SON!

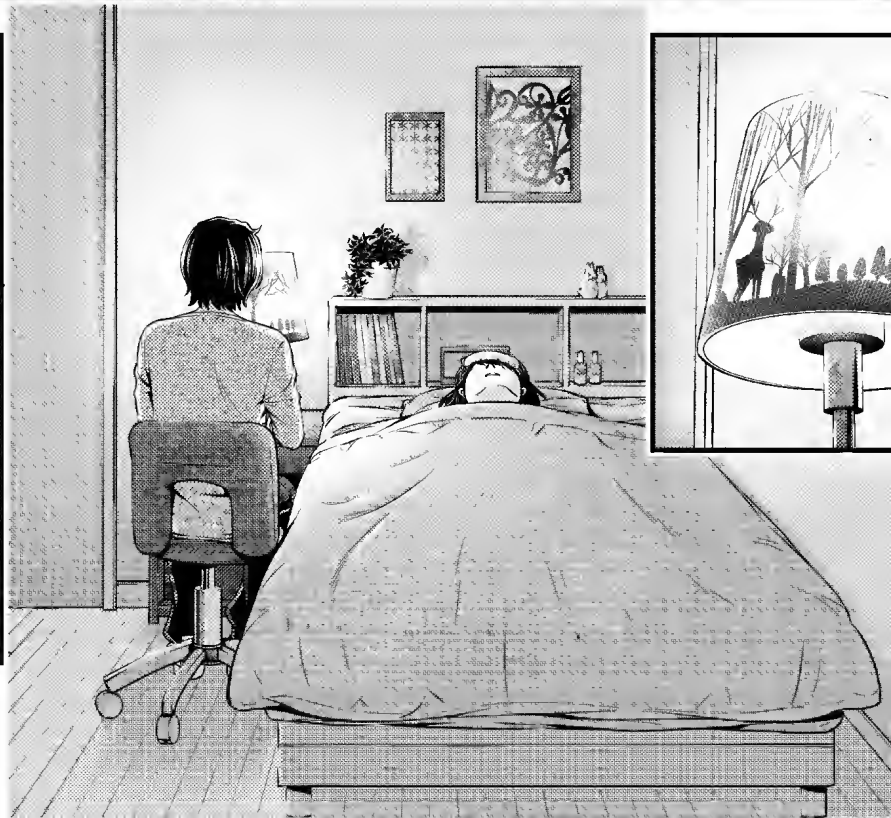
SENSEI OUGHT TO BE HOME SOON ANY–
ピロロン♪
BRING DING
YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP.



...
SERI-OUSLY ?


SORRY FOR THE LATE RESPONSE! I JUST SAW YOUR TEXT.
HOW'S RUI DOING? I'LL BE HOME LATE FROM WORK TONIGHT, SO CAN I ASK YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HER, NATSUO-KUN? SORRY!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY WITH ME ALL THE TIME.
WELL, SHE DID ASK ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU...



...
HEY ...
YOU TRIED TO ASK ME SOMETHING YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ?
DO YOU ...
...HAVE ANYONE YOU LIKE?
...!
HUH ?
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM ...?
...I GUESS ...
MOMO HAS A CRUSH ON YOU...
IS IT REALLY COOL FOR YOU TO TELL ME THAT?
SHE DIDN'T TELL ME TO KEEP IT A SECRET.
Abercrombie
15

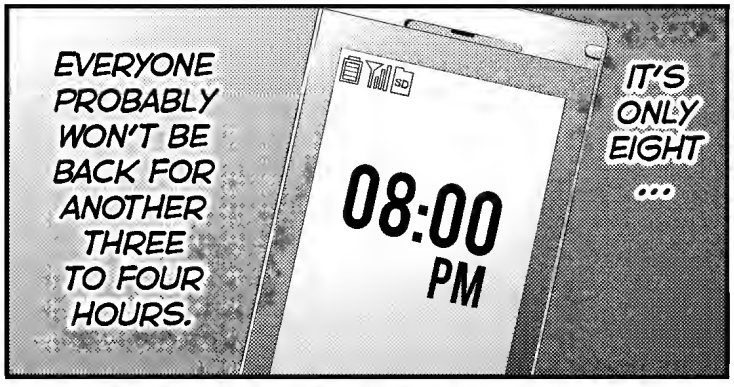
SHE TOLD ME TO WISH HER LUCK...
...BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU DATING...
FOR SOME REASON...
IT KINDA BOTHERS ME...
SORRY, BOWL PLEASE...
BLERGH
!
YOUR FEVER...!
COUGH
COUGH
KEEP PUKING UNTIL YOU FEEL BETTER.
YOU OKAY?!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE...
SO...
...I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU FELT...
Abercrombie
15

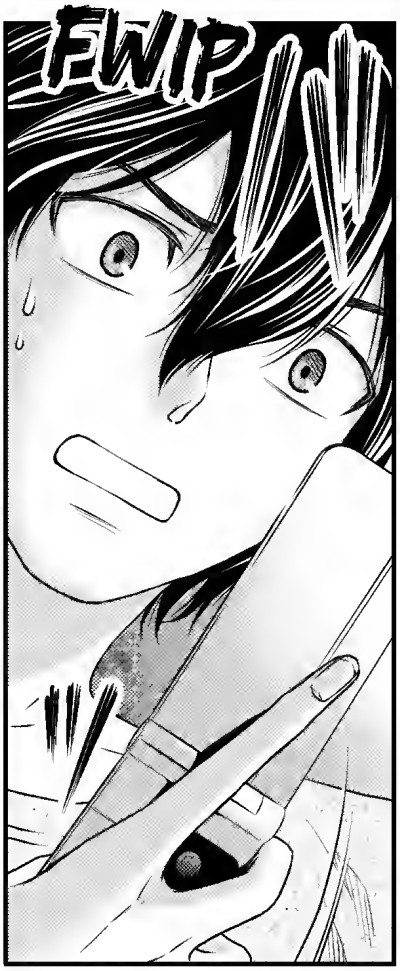
TSUKIKO-SAN, HOW LONG WILL YOU BE AT WORK?
トゥルルル TRRRR
トゥルルル TRRRR
...I SEE...
THERE'S FEVER MEDICINE IN THE FRIDGE?
OKAY.
GOT IT.
IT'S AL-MOST 40*!
39.8 °C
*103.64 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.
LET'S SEE.
FEVER MEDI-CINE...
WHY THE FRIDGE, ANYWAY?
OH, IS THIS IT?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
A...
A SUP-POSITORY ?!
LOWER FEVER
ERR ...
THINK YOU CAN PUT IT IN YOUR-SELF?
...
I DON'T THINK SO...

C'MON, BE A TROOPER!
YOUR FEVER WILL GO DOWN QUICKLY IF YOU USE THIS.
YOU DO IT, THEN.
HUH ...?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--
IT'S ...
WHA ?!
...TO GET HARD...
...BUT I CAN...TURN AROUND...

GULP
F-
FOR REAL ...?!

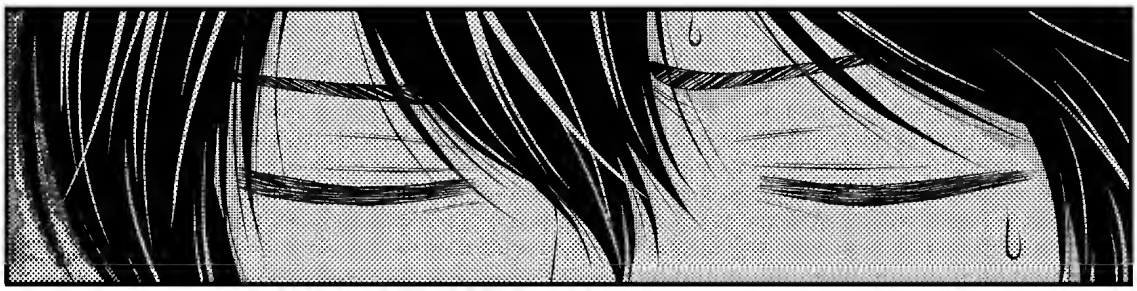
CHAPTER 13: MAKING UP


EVERYONE PROBABLY WON'T BE BACK FOR ANOTHER THREE TO FOUR HOURS.
08:00 PM
IT'S ONLY EIGHT ...


FWIP

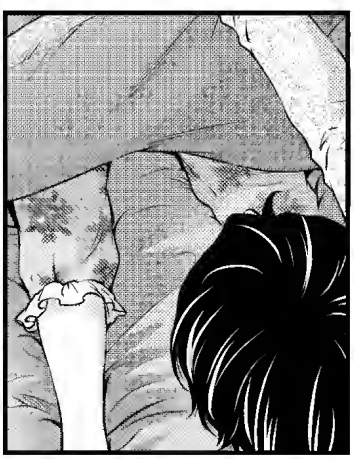
GULP

I GUESS...
...I HAVE NO CHOICE!

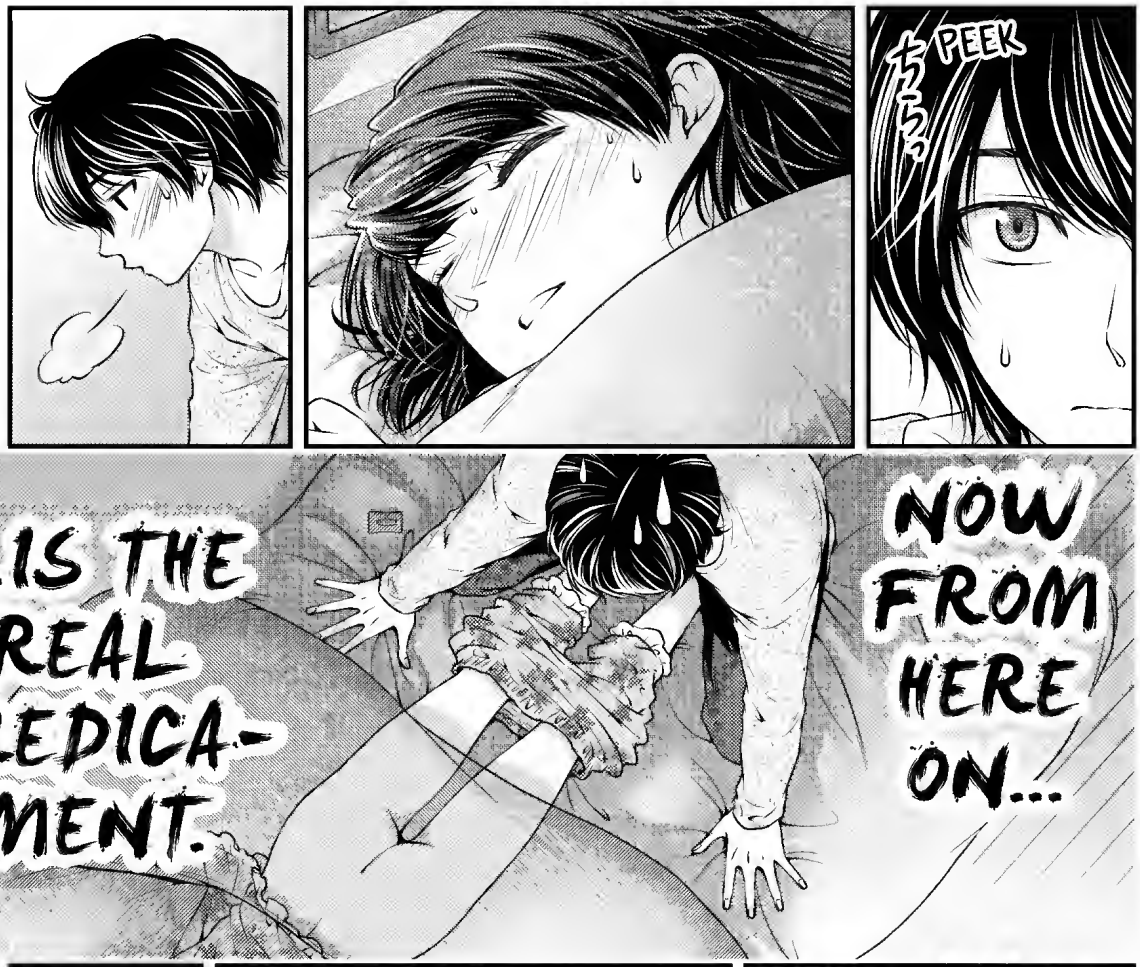


Abercrombie
15

SLIDE
...
YEAH.
PULL



I'M ...
PULL-ING THEM DOWN, OKAY?


PEEK
ちらっ
NOW FROM HERE ON...
...IS THE REAL PREDICA-MENT.

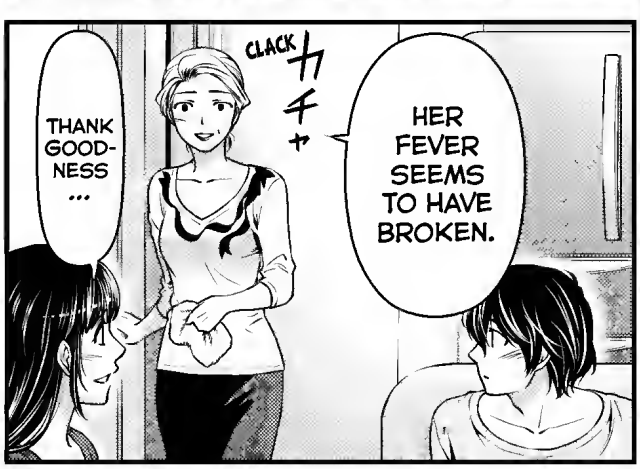
RUSTLE
ごそ
RUSTLE
ごそ
in!
MENTAL SIMULATION
peel
peel

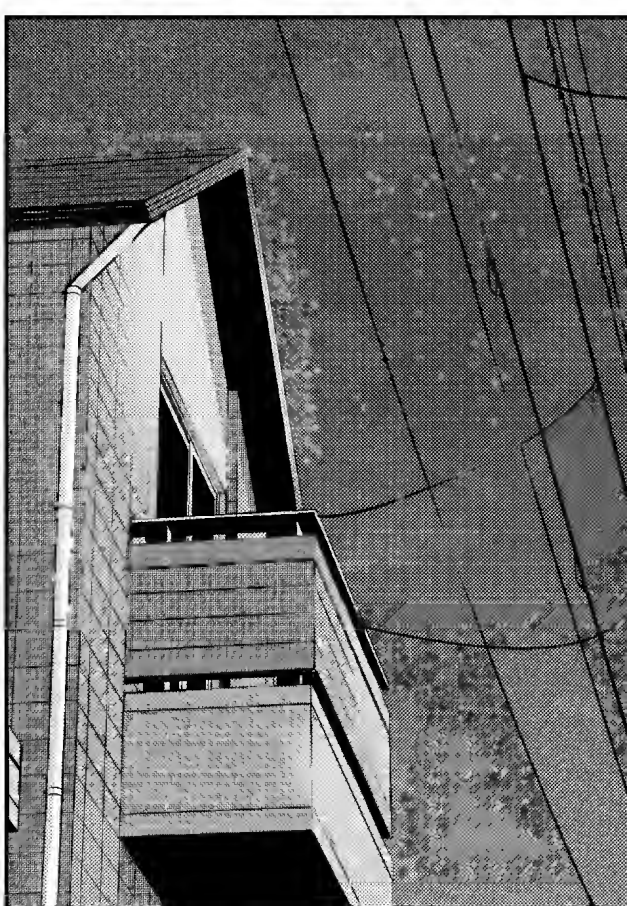
MOOSH
IT'S ...
...SO SOFT ...
RUB
さわ
RUB
さわ
さわ
RUB
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE MOVED.
OOPS.
WRONG ... HOLE ...
IS...
... THIS IT?

...
AH.
HERE, HUH?
HUH ?!
S-
SOR-RY!
ALL RIGHT.
TRY TO RELAX, OKAY?
TWITCH

IT WENT IN...
IT...
Abercrombie
15

50


CLACK
カチャ
HER FEVER SEEMS TO HAVE BROKEN.
THANK GOOD-NESS ...



THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF RUI, NATSUO-KUN.
OH...
IT WAS NOTH-ING...
OOH...
?
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
WELL...
YOU'RE ALL GROWN MEN AND WOMEN.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS WORRIED IF YOU'D ALL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT...
LIVING TOGETHER ALL OF A SUDDEN.
BUT YOU'RE GETTING ALONG GREAT AS STEP-SIBLINGS.
I'M JUST GLAD MY WORRIES WERE UNFOUNDED.
AS A FAMILY OF FIVE,
LET'S BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER FROM NOW ON, TOO!

YEAH ...
... HUH?
FAMI-LY ...
TAP
TAP
TAP
I DON'T ACTUALLY USE LINE...
ACK ...
SORRY ABOUT YESTER-DAY!

WOULD YOU...
...EAT LUNCH WITH ME TODAY? ♥
THANK GOD! I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME OR SOME-THING.
OHHH, IS THAT ALL?
...IN-STEAD OF THE DATE ...
THEN ...
YAAAY! ♥
S-SURE.
UHH ...
HUH?
DOES KASHI-WABARA HAVE HER SIGHTS SET ON YOU?
HEY, NAT-SUO.

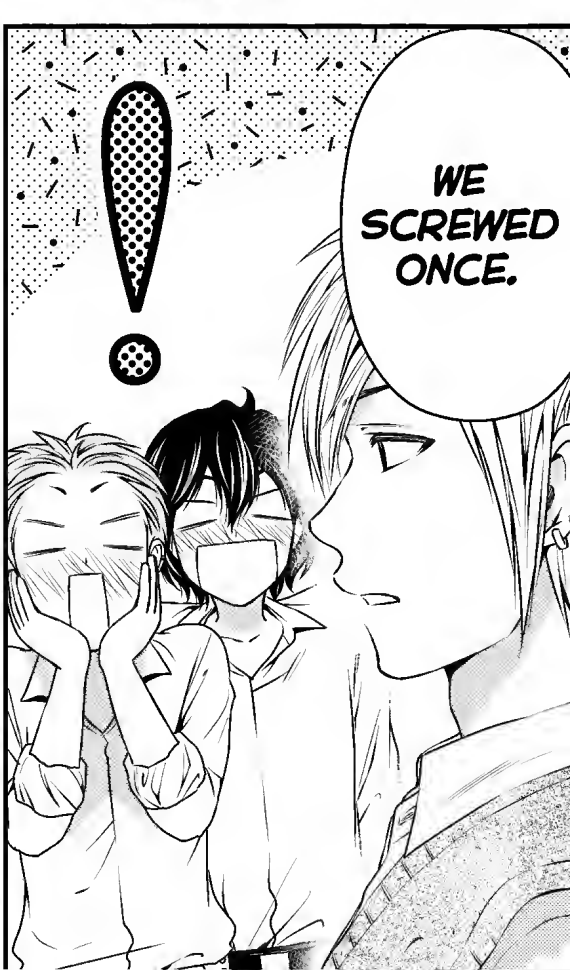
WHY?
SHE'S FA-MOUS.
FOR BEING A SLUT.

YOU KNOW HER?
WHAT?! SERIOUS-LY?!
HOW CAN'T WE...?

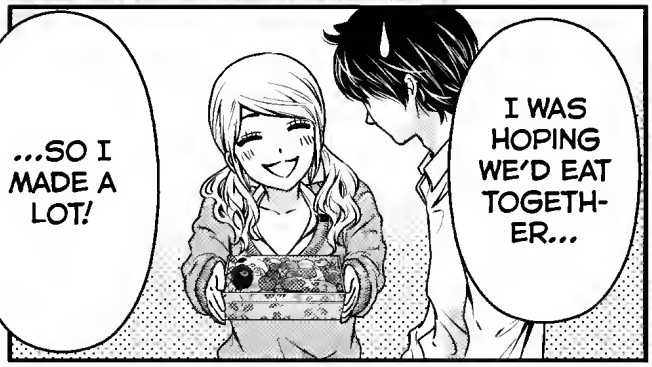
WHA ?!
...BUT THE IDEA OF BECOMING HOLE BROTH-ERS WITH A FRIEND IS KINDA AWK-WARD.
I MEAN, DO WHAT YOU WANT ...
HUH ...?

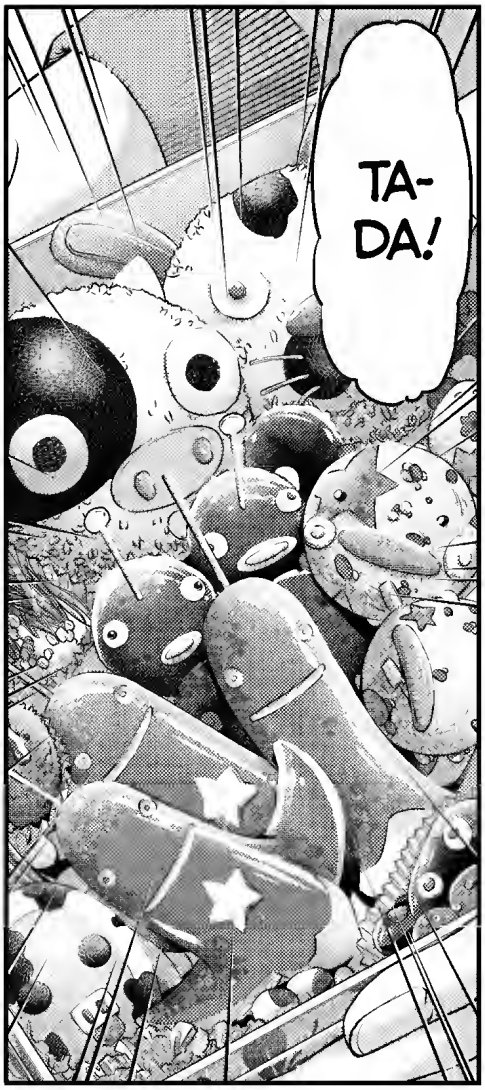
NO, WE DIDN'T DATE.
YOU DATED ?!
F- FOR REAL ?!

THAT'S DEFINITELY THE KINDA GIRL YOU DON'T WANNA GET IN TOO DEEP WITH.
I MEAN, HAVE YOU SEEN THE DOLLS ON HER BAG?
GOOD POINT...

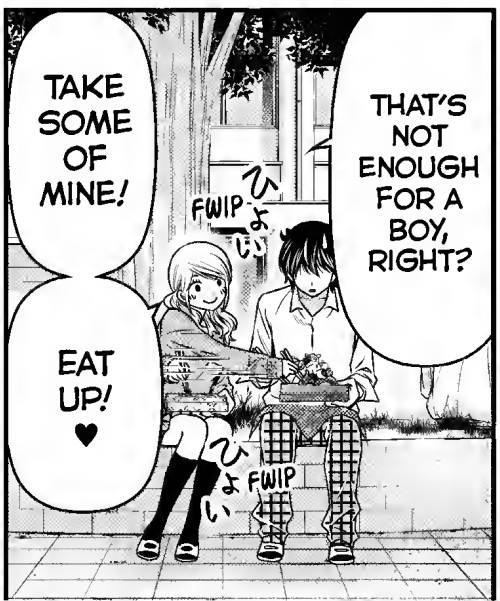

WE SCREWED ONCE.

WELL, HER BODY WAS BANGIN', THOUGH.
BIG TITS, TOO.
I'M GONNA NEED MORE DETAIL ...
...


I WAS HOPING WE'D EAT TOGETH-ER...
...SO I MADE A LOT!

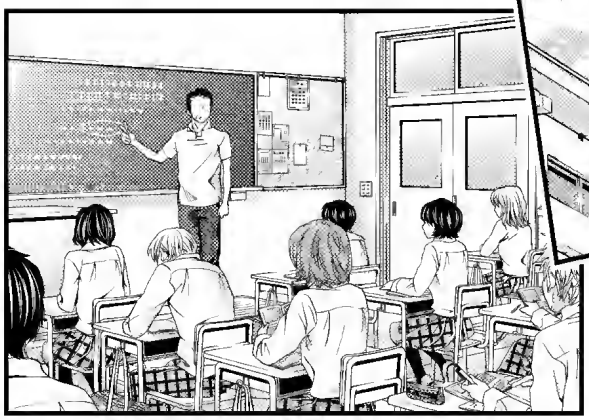

TA-DA!

BUT I HAVE MY OWN LUNCH.


THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR A BOY, RIGHT?
FWIP
ひよい
TAKE SOME OF MINE!
EAT UP! ♥
ひよい
FWIP

DO YOU ...
DO THIS SORT OF THING TO EVERY-ONE?
OF COURSE NOT.
JUST PEOPLE I LIKE. ♥
...
YOU DON'T HIDE MUCH, HUH?
WELL, YEAH.
I MEAN ...
...
...IF YOU DON'T ALWAYS GIVE YOUR ALL...
...YOU'LL JUST END UP RE-GRETTING THINGS, RIGHT?
IF YOU DO YOUR BEST AND IT STILL DOESN'T WORK OUT, THEN IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

IT'S MUCH MORE PAINFUL TO NOT MAKE A MOVE...
AND JUST KEEP THINKING "WHAT IF?"
WHAT WON'T HAPPEN, WON'T.
UNLESS YOU TAKE THE CHANCE TO CONVEY YOUR FEELINGS ...
YOU WON'T GET THE CHANCE TO GIVE UP, EITHER.
...
YOU SURE ARE SOMETHING ELSE.
DID YOU FALL FOR ME?
WANNA GO OUT?
NO, I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR...
WE STILL JUST MET, TOO.
I DON'T MIND STARTING AS SEX FRIENDS. ♥
...



IT'S ABOUT TIME...
...I FINISH THIS NOVEL, TOO.

WEL-COME BACK.

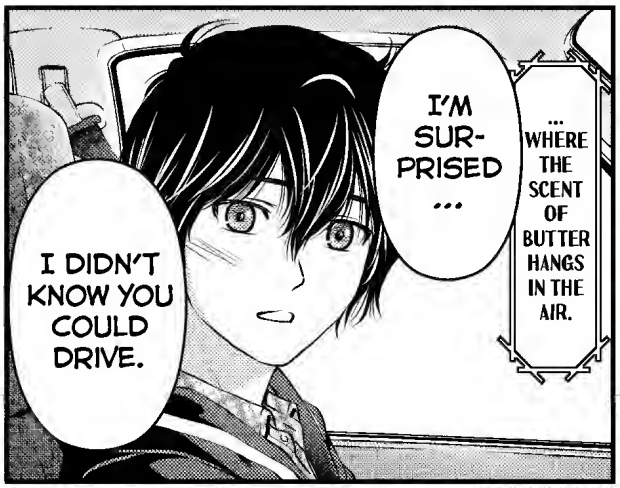
CLACK
カチャ…

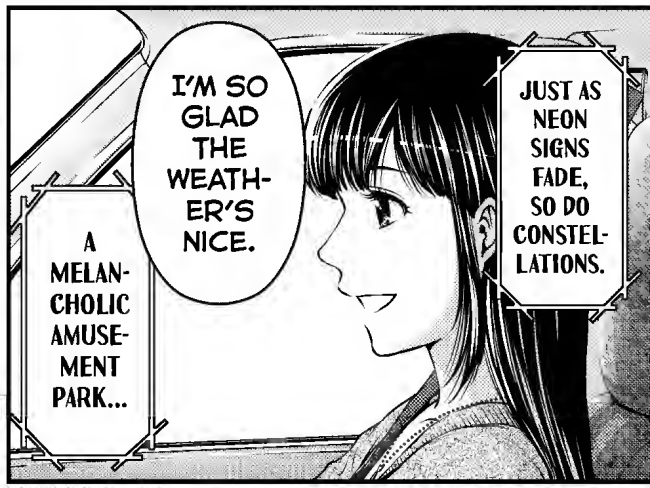
HOW IS SHE?
MUCH BETTER, IT LOOKS LIKE.
SHE SAID SHE'LL GO TO SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW.
YOU'RE HOME EARLY TODAY.
YEAH. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT RUI.
I ASKED THE CLUB ADVISOR TAKEDA-SENSEI TO LOOK AFTER PRAC-TICE.
I'M JUST THE ASSIS-TANT ADVI-SOR, ANYWAY.
BEEP
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING HIM A SECRET FROM OUR PARENTS.
I REALLY APPRE-CIATE IT.
ABOUT SHUU-SAN...

...
WE STILL ...
HAVEN'T PROPERLY MADE UP YET, RIGHT?
I KNOW ...
...I CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE, TOO.
NO PROBLEM... IT'S NOT REALLY MY PLACE TO TELL THEM, ANYWAY.
WHY DON'T ...
...THE TWO OF US GO SOME-WHERE THIS SUNDAY?

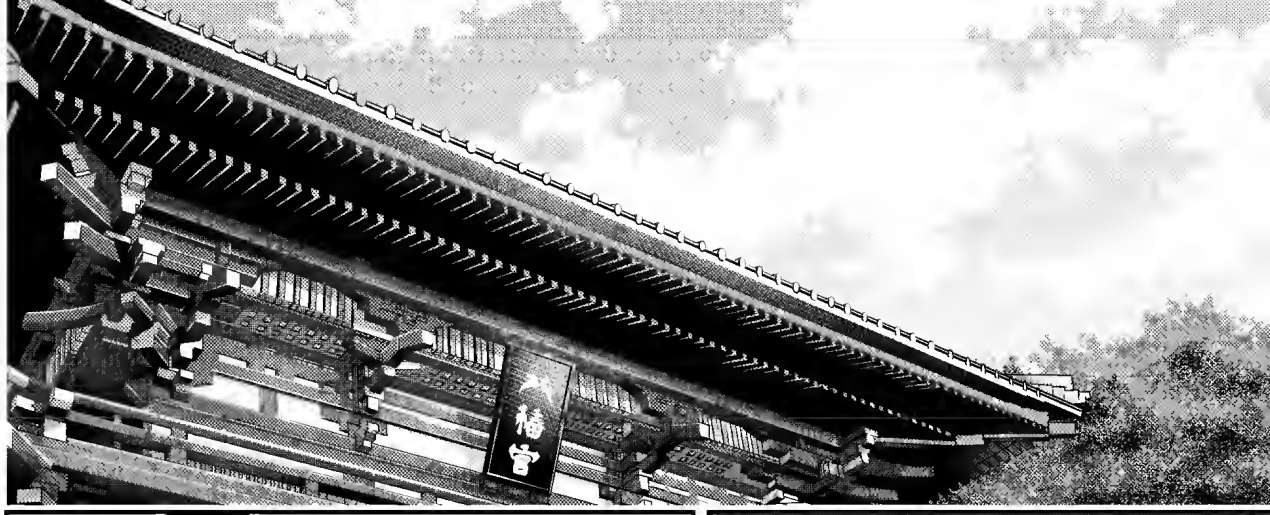
CHAPTER 14:
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

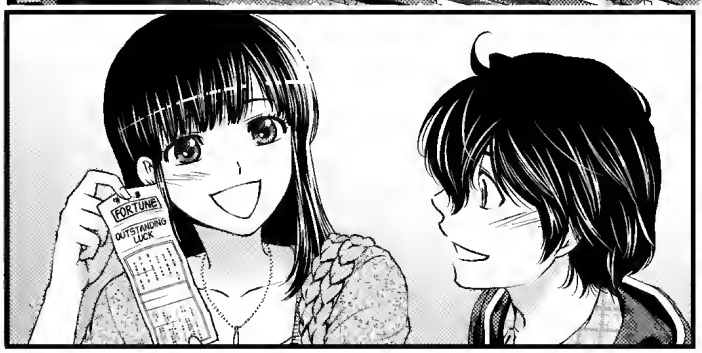
NOTE: YUMI MATSUTOYA'S "YOKOSO KAGAYAKU JIKAN E" (WELCOME TO THE DAZZLING TIMES)

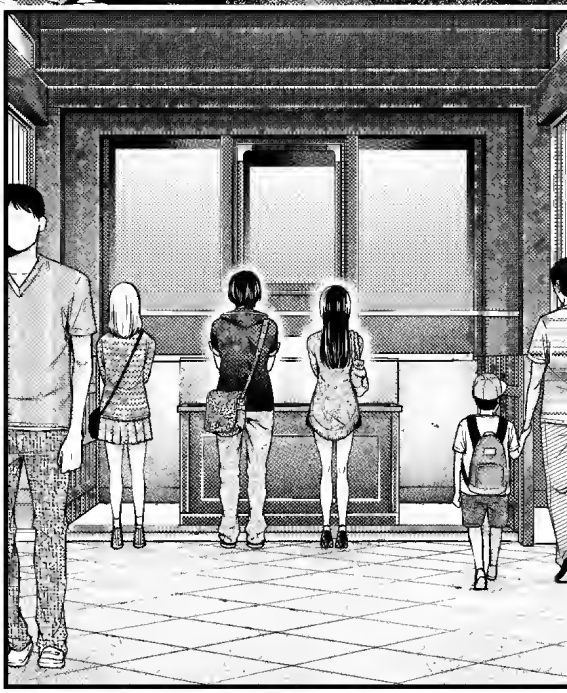


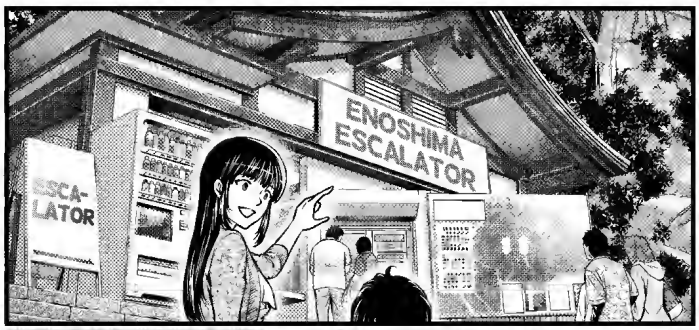


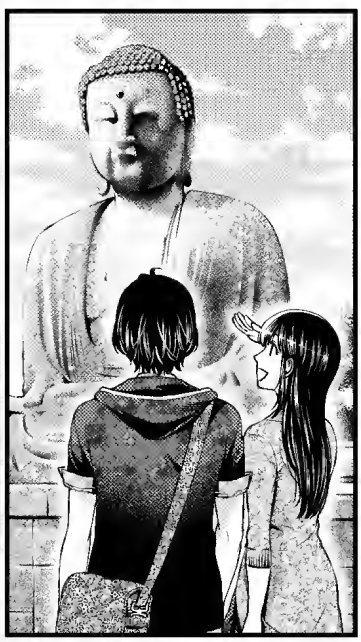
HUH ...
THIS PLACE IS FAMOUS?
YEAH!
ALL THE GUIDE BOOKS RECOMMENDED IT!
AL-RIGHTY!
LET'S DIG IN.
YUM!
AH HA HA! WE SYNCED UP!
DON'T COPY ME!
THAT'S MY LINE.
OH, MY.
WHAT A LOVELY COUPLE.
OH!
WE'RE NOT A COUPLE!
WE'RE JUST STEP-SIBLINGS.
OH, IS THAT SO?
YOU MUST BE CLOSE.
HEY, YOU.
DON'T GET EMBARRASSED.
CHOP
THORRY...
NOW, THEN.
WHY DON'T WE SEE THE SIGHTS?


辺津宮


FORTUNE
OUTSTANDING LUCK




ENOSHIMA ESCALATOR
ESCA-LATOR



WHOOOOH
アアアアン
WHOOOOH
アアアアン
I FEEL LIKE TAKING OFF MY SHOES AND RUNNING WILD!
YOU WON'T?
FU FU, I'M NOT THAT CHILDISH.
MY FEET WILL GET ALL SANDY.
THEN MAYBE I'LL GO NUTS.
I'M STILL A CHILD, AFTER ALL.
AHHH...
THE SEA BREEZE FEELS GREAT!

...
DOES IT STILL BOTHER YOU THAT...
I CALLED YOU A CHILD?
TO BE HON-EST...
...I DIDN'T REALLY THINK THAT.
BACK THEN, I JUST CHOSE THE WORDS THAT I KNEW...
...WOULD HURT YOU THE MOST.
...
OH!
I FOUND A NICE PIECE OF DRIFT-WOOD!

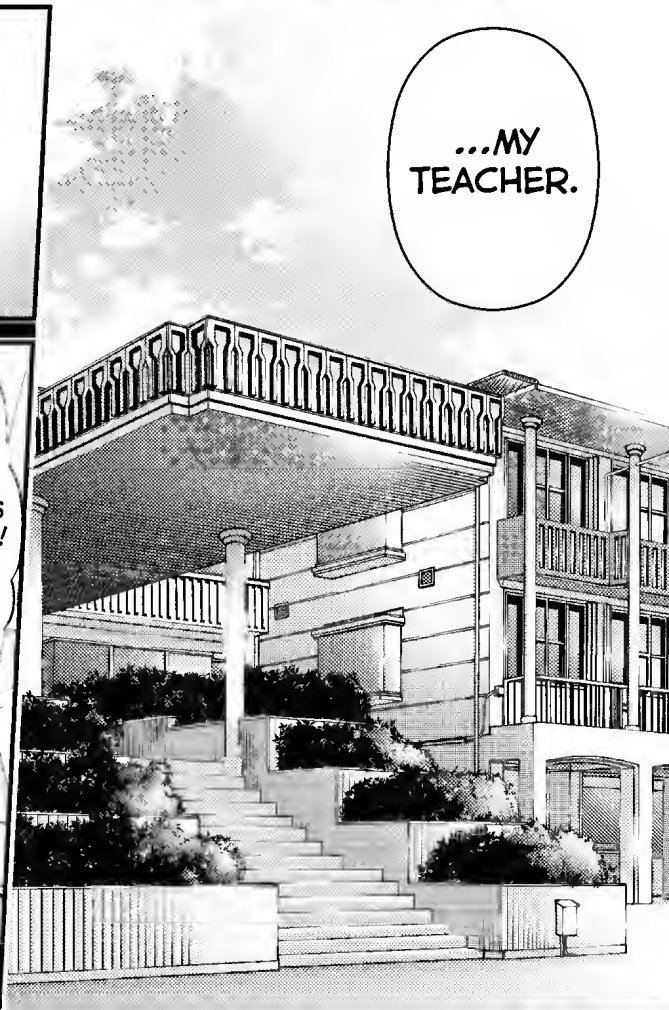
...IT FEELS LIKE TIME MOVES SO SLOWLY, HUH?
SIT-TING LIKE THIS ...
#11 WHOOOOH ア・・・ン・・
...THAT'S BEEN ON MY MIND ALL THIS TIME?
MIND IF I ASK YOU SOME-THING ...
...
HM ...?
...AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR FATHER?
WHY DID YOU HAVE AN AFFAIR ...

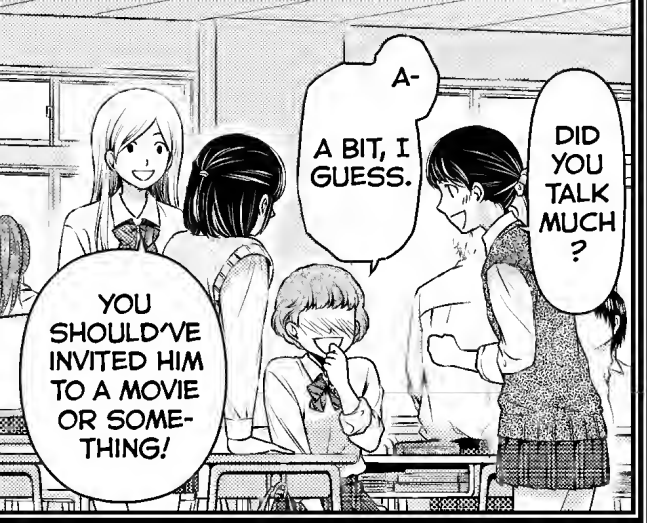
...I WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE, NATSUO-KUN.
THE FIRST TIME I MET SHUU-SAN...
THINKING ABOUT TSUKIKO-SAN'S FEEL-INGS, I CAN'T IMAGINE...

AND ...
HE WAS MY FIRST LOVE,

WHAT?
REAL-LY?!

MAMI RAN INTO SHIBATA AFTER SCHOOL,
THAT'S GREAT!
WHAT'S UP?
AND THEY WALKED HOME TO-GETHER!


...MY TEACHER.



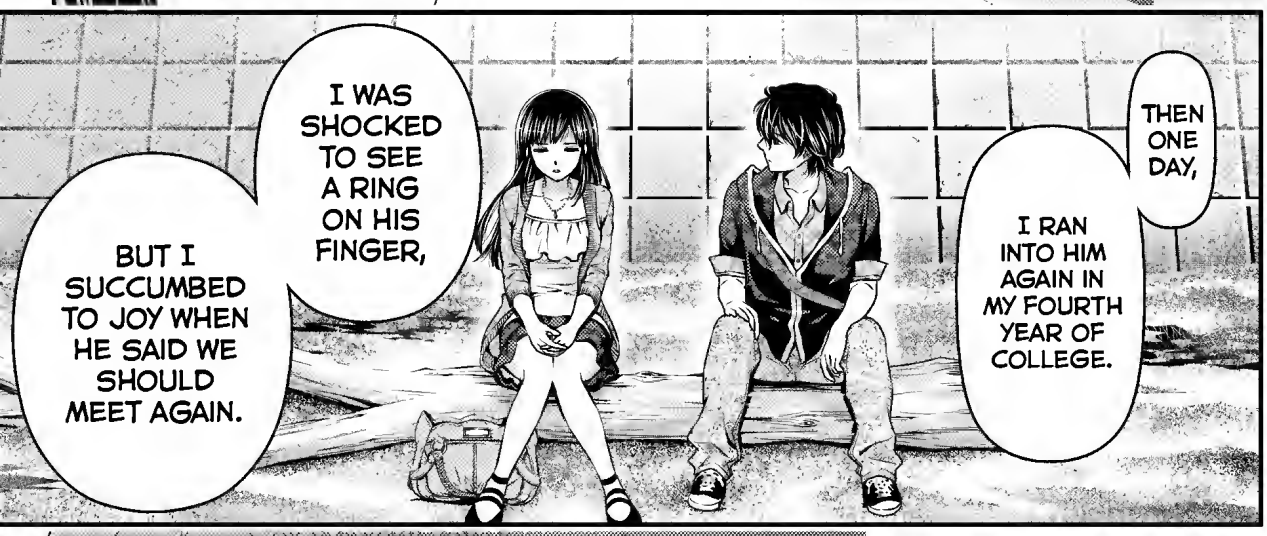
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK ...

...HINA'S FLIRTING TOO MUCH?

I THOUGHT THE SAME THING!
SHE ALWAYS ACTS DIFFERENTLY WHEN SHE TALKS TO BOYS.
SHE KNOWS MAMI LIKES SHIBATA, TOO.
UGH, NASTY ...
WHY DON'T WE SERIOUSLY SHUN HER FROM NOW ON?
POP ぴょ
ARE YOU EATING ALONE?
こっ

THIS IS HAGIWARA. HE TEACHES THIRD-YEAR BIOLOGY.
ARE YOU A SECOND YEAR?
NICE TO MEET YOU.
YOUR LUNCH LOOKS REALLY GOOD!
IT EVEN HAS MY FAVORITE, QUAIL EGGS!
NOW, NOW ...
SEN-SEI.
IS IT OKAY IF I COME AGAIN TOMOR-ROW?
Y-YES, I AM...
THEN DO YOU MIND...
POPぴよ
...IF I JOIN YOU?
YOU'RE GOOD AT VENTRILO-QUISM.
YOU FLATTER ME.
NO! I REALLY DO SPEAK!

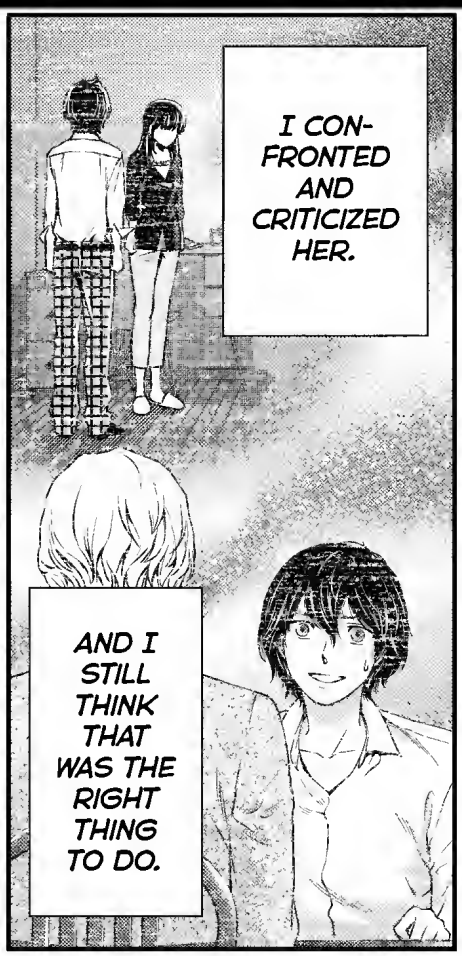
THE ROOM IS ALWAYS OPEN DURING BREAKS!
OF COURSE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.
DEPARTING TEACHERS FAREWELL CEREMONY


THEN ONE DAY,
I RAN INTO HIM AGAIN IN MY FOURTH YEAR OF COLLEGE.
I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE A RING ON HIS FINGER,
BUT I SUCCUMBED TO JOY WHEN HE SAID WE SHOULD MEET AGAIN.

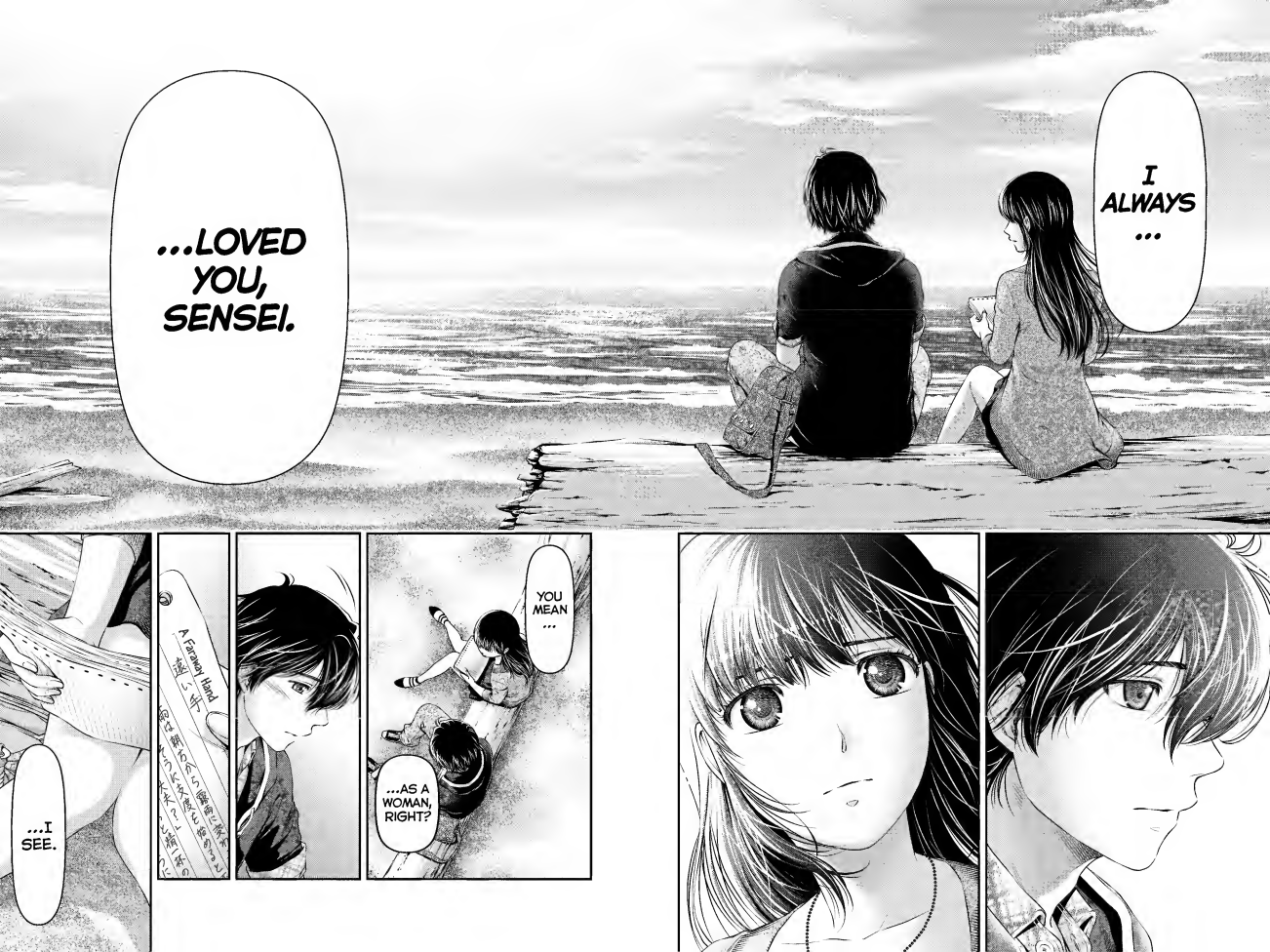
I REALLY DID...
...BELIEVE THAT.

INCLUDING MY FATHER,
I ALWAYS THOUGHT PEOPLE WHO WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO CHEAT OR HAVE AFFAIRS...
...WERE THE WORST KIND OF SCUM.

DO I REALLY HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BLAME SENSEI?

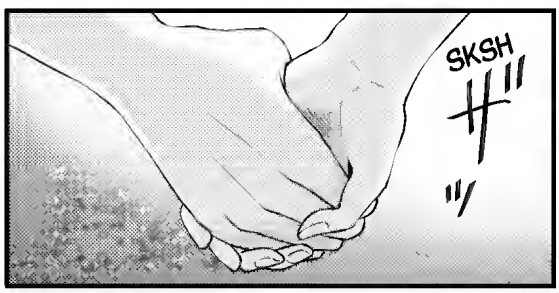


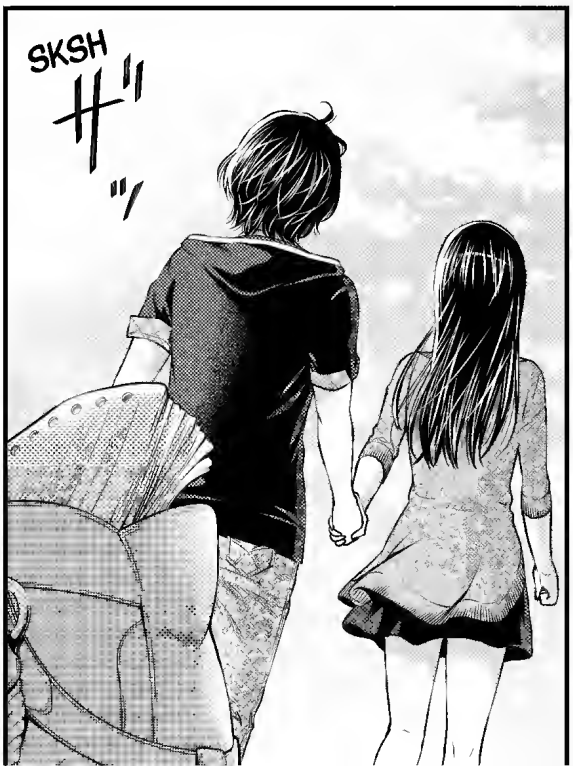
BUT WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE...IN HER SHOES?
SEN-SEI.
FLAP
HERE ...
THE HEROINE ...
...IS MOD-ELED AFTER YOU.
...?
IT'S MY NOV-EL.
I FIN-ISHED IT.


I ALWAYS ...
...LOVED YOU, SENSEI.
YOU MEAN ...
...AS A WOMAN, RIGHT?
A Faraway Hand
...I SEE.

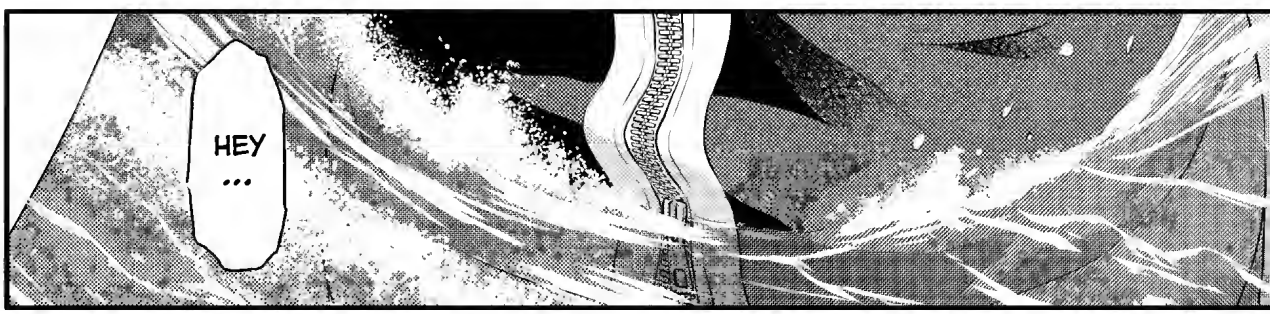
IN THAT CASE,
WITHOUT LETTING MOM,
OR FUJII-SAN,
OR RUI KNOW ...
...WHY DON'T THE TWO OF US START DATING...
...IN SECRET?
WHAT ...?

CHAPTER 14: RESOLVE





SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH


HEY
...

HANG ON A SECOND!
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

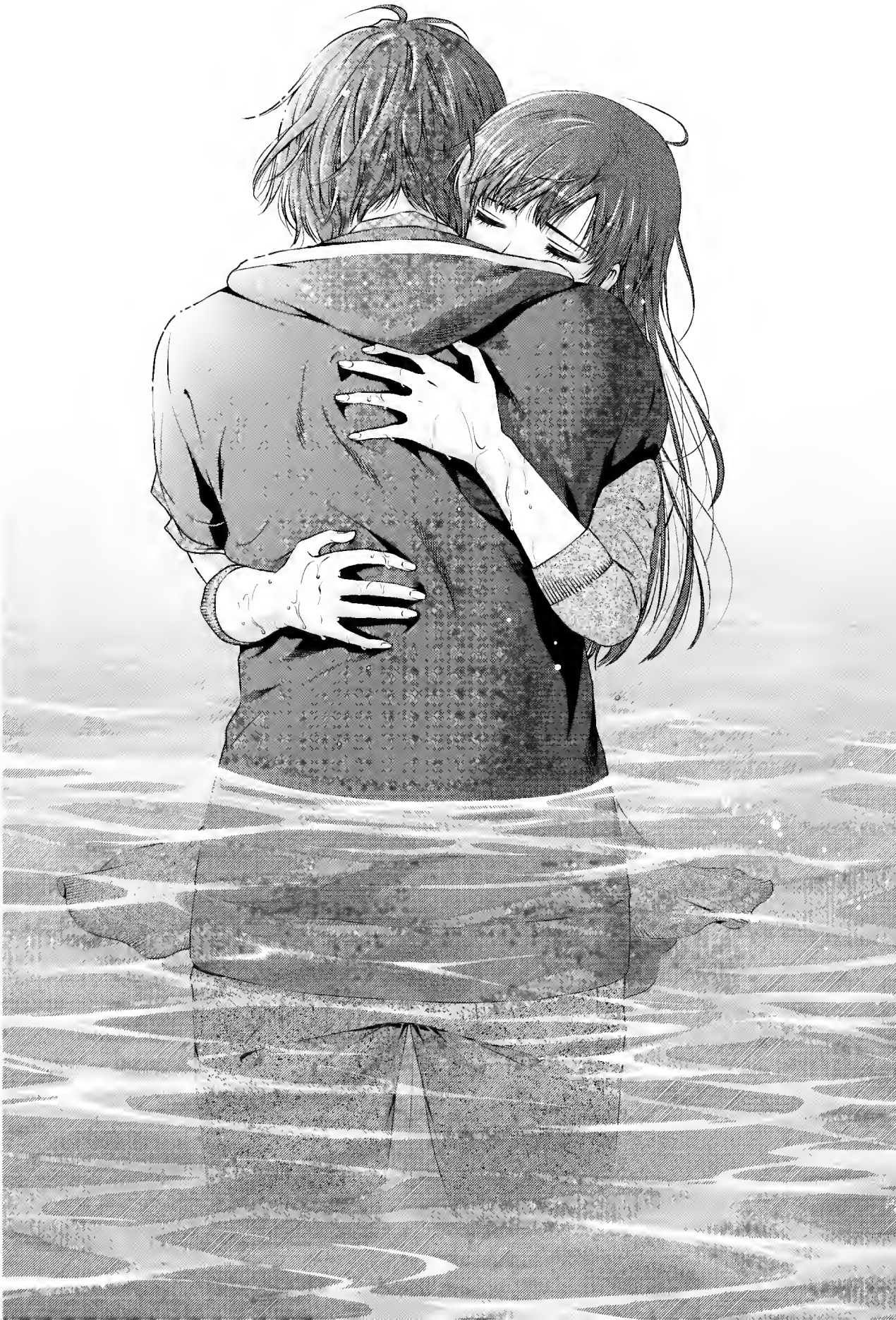
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS...
...FOR THE TWO OF US TO BE TO-GETHER.

WE'LL DIE TOGETH-ER.

IF WE WERE FOUND OUT, IT WOULD MEAN THROWING AWAY EVERYTHING FROM OUR FAMILY TO OUR VERY PLACE IN SOCIETY.
EVEN IF WE BECAME LOVERS,
WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO HIDE IT FOREVER.
THAT'S THE SAME AS A DOUBLE SUICIDE.

DO YOU HAVE THE RESOLVE ...
...TO DO THAT?
...

THAT'S FINE.
WHEN WE GET BACK TO SHORE ...
...LET'S RETURN TO BEING NORMAL, CLOSE STEP-SIBLINGS, OKAY?
BE-FORE THAT ...
...CAN I ASK YOU...
...TO GRANT ME ONE LAST WISH?
WHOOOOH
ア"

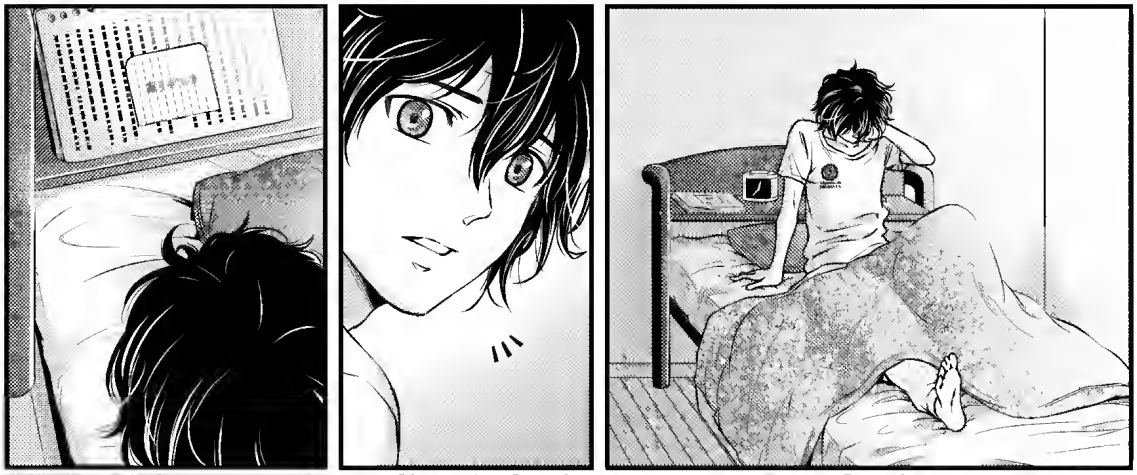


...
SEN-
SEI.
SEN-
SEI.
SEN-
SEI.
SEN-
SEI
...

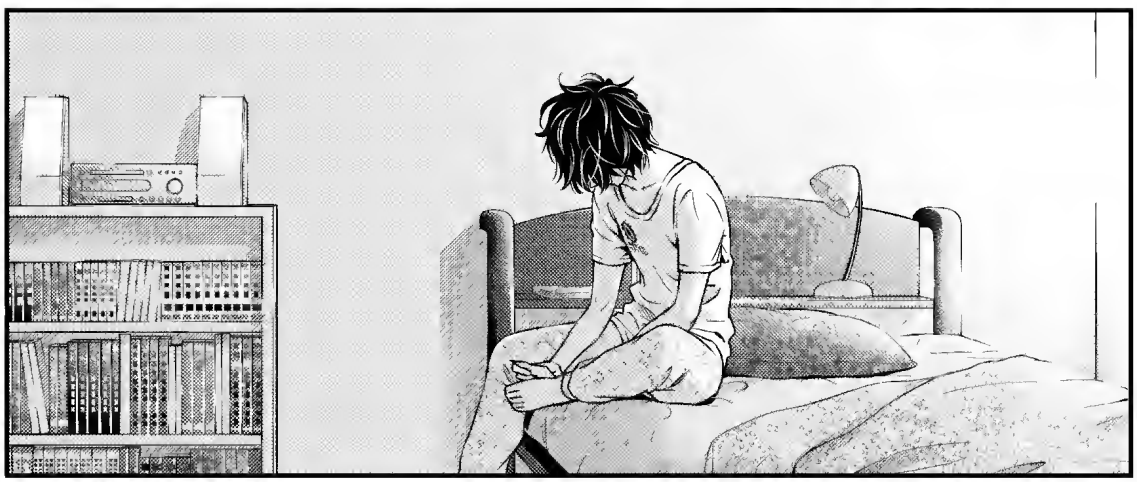
カチャ
CLACK
WE'RE BACK!
THE SAME IS LAME
WELCOME HOME.
OH!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CLOTHES?
YOU DIDN'T LEAVE LIKE THAT, DID YOU?
THEY GOT SOAKED WHEN WE PLAYED AT THE BEACH.
WE BOUGHT THESE ON THE WAY BACK.

AND I'M SURE IT WAS HINA WHO GOT EXCITED AND DRAGGED YOU IN.
SORRY, NATSUO-KUN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. SHE ENDED UP PAYING FOR THE CLOTHES, ANYHOW...
BUT I HAD A GOOD TIME.
SHE BETTER HAVE!



Thank You



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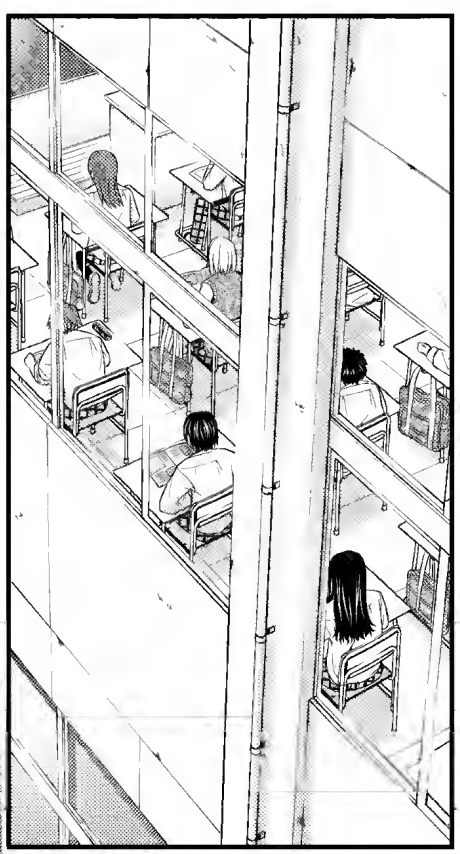
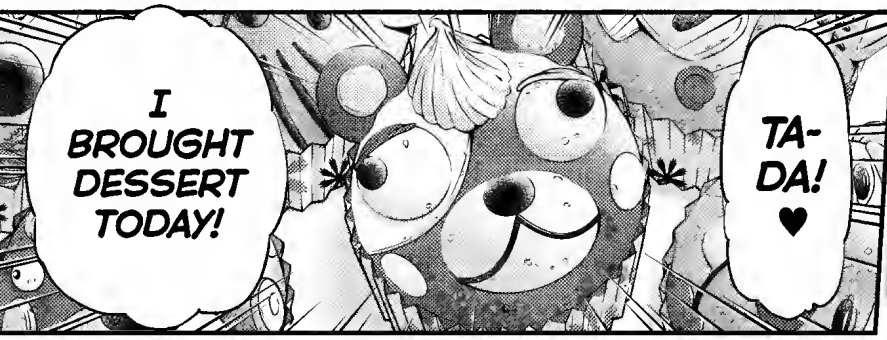
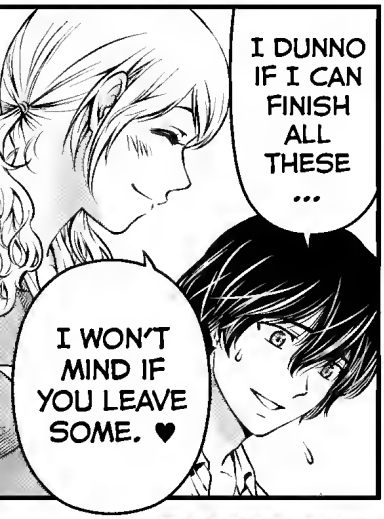
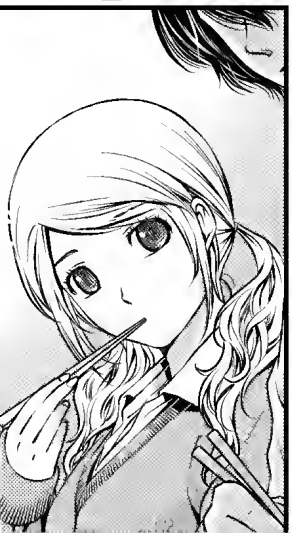


I DON'T NEED ANY TONIGHT.
... SOR- RY.
...
OKAY ...
DINNER'S READY.
HEY ...
KNOCK
KNOCK
You


I BROUGHT DESSERT TODAY!
TA-DA! ♥


I DUNNO IF I CAN FINISH ALL THESE ...
I WON'T MIND IF YOU LEAVE SOME. ♥

THEY'RE BEAR-TAN CUCAKES! ♥
...



I'LL HAVE SOME AFTER LUNCH.
THANKS...

Y'KNOW,
YOU'VE SEEMED KINDA DOWN FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS.
HUH?
HE HE. YOU'RE BAD AT HIDING IT.
I'M ALL EARS IF YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT IT.
NAH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
I INSIST!
...
I'VE JUST BEEN KINDA FED UP...
WITH MY-SELF.
I WANTED SOMETHING SO BADLY FOR SO LONG, AND WHEN IT WAS FINALLY OFFERED TO ME ON A PLATTER...
...I GOT SCARED AND TURNED IT DOWN.
I FIGURED IT WAS OUT OF MY REACH, ANYWAY.

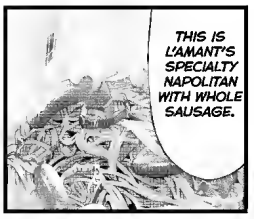
I'D THOUGHT I WAS WILLING TO DO THAT.
BUT...I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE THROWN EVERYTHING AWAY IN ORDER TO TAKE IT.
YET BACK THEN, WHY DID I...

...to be continued.

TRANSLATION NOTES

INTERNET CAFÉS IN JAPAN, PAGE 22
> 22.4
In Japan, one cheap option for killing time and getting some shuteye it by staying at an internet café. Patrons get their own cubicle where they can set up camp and surf the web or sleep at their leisure. These cafés also often have amenities such as libraries of manga and books, free soft drinks, and even showers to use for a minimal fee.

ANPAN AND MILK, PAGE 41
> 41.4
The combination of milk and *anpan*, a Japanese bread filled with sweet bean paste, is a staple cliché in Japanese detective dramas, who are most commonly seen eating the two during a steak-out. The cliché is so well-established that it often carries over to other dramas and anime/manga as a kind of self-aware joke. Another common cliché originating from detective dramas is the offering of *katsudon*, a pork cutlet bowl, to suspects during an interrogation.



NAPOLIAN, PAGE 63
> 63.5
Not to be confused with Neapolitan-styled pasta, napolitan is a Japan-originated pasta dish consisting of spaghetti, tomato ketchup or a tomato-based sauce, onion, button mushrooms, green peppers, sausage, bacon and Tabasco sauce. The dish was named after Naples, Italy, or Napoli in Italian.

SIXSOMES AND GOLF, PAGE 114
> 114.5
This was originally a joke that was unfortunately lost in translation. In Japanese, the common way to describe sex with more than two people is with a number + P, with 3P being a threesome, 4P being a foursome, and so on. Momo was rumored to have been in a sixsome, or 6P. 6P is also the name of a brand of cheese in Japan. When Rui asks Momo about her 6P, Momo confusedly thinks she's talking about said cheese. The translator attempted to rewrite this joke in English by invoking golf, where the term threesome and up is used to describe the number of people playing a round of golf together.

BUNGEIKATO, PAGE 118
> 118.2
The magazine Natsuo is reading is a reference to an existing magazine titled *Bungeishunju*, a monthly publishing that covers a wide range of topics from politics to sports and features articles written by politicians, researchers, journalists, and non-fiction writers alike. The *shunju* part of the magazine's title is written with the Chinese characters for Spring and Autumn, while the title of the magazine Natsuo is reading uses the characters for Summer and Winter.

Domestic Girlfriend 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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